



Outrage after gunman ambushes NYC police twice in 12 hours

By S. ROSENBAUM/D. HAJELA

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A gunman was taken into custody Sunday after he ambushed police officers in the Bronx twice in 12 hours, wounding two in attacks that ignited outrage from officials who blamed the violence on an atmosphere of anti-police rhetoric.

The man, whose name was not immediately released, was captured after he walked into a police station in the Bronx and started shooting shortly before 8 a.m. Sunday. His shots

struck a lieutenant in the arm and narrowly missed other police personnel before he ran out of bullets, lay down and tossed his pistol. That attack came just hours after the same man approached a patrol van in the same part of the Bronx late Saturday and fired at two officers inside, wounding one before escaping on foot, police said. Despite multiple shots fired in both incidents, nobody was killed, and all are expected to recover, police said.

Continued on Page 2



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Continued from Front

"It is only by the grace of God and the heroic actions of those inside the building that took him into custody that we are not talking about police officers murdered inside a New York City police precinct," Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said at a news conference.

The officer injured in the first shooting, Paul Stroffolino, was released from the hospital Sunday to applause from a sizable contingent of fellow officers. The officer, a bandage visible on his neck, gave a thumbs-up to the crowd.

Shea called the gunman a "coward" and said he had a lengthy criminal history, including a 2002 shooting and carjacking in which he also fired a gun at police officers. Shea said the man was paroled from prison in 2017 after an attempted murder conviction. The commissioner also lashed out at criminal justice reform activists who have held demonstrations against excessive force by

police in recent months, including a large protest in Grand Central Terminal. He suggested the protests helped create an anti-police environment.

"These things are not unrelated. We had people marching through the streets of New York City recently," Shea said. "Words matter. And words affect people's behavior."

Shea didn't offer any evidence that the gunman in this weekend's attacks knew of those protests or was influenced by them.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, who won office partly on a promise to reform overly aggressive policing of minority communities, also suggested that anti-police sentiment had gotten out of hand.

"Anyone who spews hatred at our officers is aiding and abetting this kind of atmosphere; it is not acceptable," de Blasio said. "You could protest for whatever you believe in, but you cannot vilely attack those who are here to protect us. It creates this kind of dynamic."



New York police stand outside the 41st precinct at the scene of a police involved shooting, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

The attacks recalled other unprovoked assaults on police officers sitting in their patrol vehicles.

In 2017, a gunman killed Officer Miosotis Familia as she sat in her patrol vehicle in the Bronx. In 2014, two officers, Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu, were shot dead in their patrol car in Brooklyn by a man upset about recent police killings of unarmed black men.

The killings of Ramos and Liu had also followed large street protests and some officers blamed de Blasio for expressing solidarity with the demonstrations, and turned their backs on the Democrat at the funerals.

Robert Gangi, executive director of the Police Reform Organizing Project advocacy group, said it was "irresponsible" for Shea and de Blasio to say the violence this weekend was linked to the recent demonstrations, which he said involved activists "protesting in a legitimate fashion." Of the gunman, though, Gangi said there is "no defense for a lunatic who opens fire on police."

The first attack happened just before 8:30 p.m. Saturday, when the gunman walked up to the van asking the officers for directions and then fired shots, grazing Stroffolino, who was behind the wheel, in the chin and neck and narrowly missing an artery. Police released a photograph of the suspected shooter and were combing the city for him when he walked into the police station coordinating the manhunt, strolled to the desk and pulled a gun. The wounded lieutenant re-

turned fire but missed, and police personnel dashed out of an adjoining room just in time to avoid the pursuing gunman. Two security cameras captured video of the chaotic scene.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in a tweet Sunday he was "horrified by the multiple attacks" on police.

"NY's law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe," he wrote. "These attacks are heinous."

President Donald Trump immediately used the shootings to assail New York's Democratic mayor and governor.

"I grew up in New York City and, over many years, got to watch how GREAT NYC's 'Finest' are. Now, because of weak leadership at Governor & Mayor, stand away (water thrown at them) regulations, and lack of support, our wonderful NYC police are under assault. Stop this now!" he tweeted.

The attacks happened in the Bronx's 41st Precinct, a once crime-plagued district whose former headquarters was infamously branded "Fort Apache" and was the subject of a 1981 film starring Paul Newman.

In recent years, though, the neighborhood has gotten much safer. There were five killings reported in all of last year and 164 robberies, down from 44 killings and 1,095 robberies in 1990. □

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Graham: DOJ has process to review Giuliani's Ukraine info

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, a close ally of President Donald Trump, said Sunday that the Justice Department has established a way to review information gathered in Ukraine by Trump personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, who has targeted Democrat Joe Biden and his son. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said Attorney General William Barr told him during a conversation Sunday that the department has "created a process that Rudy

could give information and they would see if it's verified." "Rudy Giuliani is a well-known man," said Graham. "He's a crime fighter. He's loyal to the president. He's a good lawyer." Giuliani is also under scrutiny by federal authorities. That means the Justice Department would be putting itself in the awkward position of appearing to work with someone it is actively investigating to gather potentially damaging information against one of the president's political rivals. Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Ku-

pec declined to comment when asked about Graham's statements. Federal prosecutors in New York are investigating Giuliani's business dealings, including whether he failed to register as a foreign agent, according to people familiar with the matter. They were not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. Giuliani also was a central character in the impeachment of Trump over the president's dealings with Ukraine, pushing unsubstantiated corruption alle-




Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., arrives on Capitol Hill, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020 in Washington.


Associated Press

gations against Biden, currently a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. □

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Trump budget to face skepticism, be overwhelmed by politics

By **ANDREW TAYLOR**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Confronted with trillion-dollar-plus deficits for as far as the eye can see, President Donald Trump is offering a budget plan that rehashes previously rejected spending cuts while leaving Social Security and Medicare benefits untouched.

Trump's fiscal 2021 budget plan, expected to be released Monday, isn't likely to generate a serious Washington dialogue about what to do, if anything this election year, about entrenched fiscal problems that have deficits surging despite a healthy economy. It was being released on the eve of the New Hampshire primary, a move that minimizes attention.

A blueprint written as if Trump could enact it without congressional approval, the budget proposal relies on rosy economic projections and fanciful claims of future cuts to domestic programs to show that it is possible to bend the deficit curve in the right direction. The reality is that no one



This Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019, file photo shows the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

— Trump, the Democratic-controlled House or the GOP-held Senate — has any interest in tackling a chronic budget gap that forces the government to borrow 22 cents of every dollar it spends.

Trump's reelection campaign, meanwhile, is focused on the economy and the historically low job-

less rate while ignoring the government's budget.

On Capitol Hill, Democrats controlling the House have seen their number of deficit-conscious "Blue Dogs" shrink while the roster of lawmakers favoring costly "Medicare for All" and "Green New Deal" proposals has swelled. Tea party Republicans have aban-

doned the cause that defined, at least in part, their successful takeover of the House a decade ago.

Trump has succumbed to the Washington temptation to deliver spending increases and tax cuts first and then deal — or not — with their impact on the deficit. Trump and key administration figures such as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin had promised that Trump's signature cuts to corporate and individual tax rates would pay for themselves; instead the deficit spiked by more than \$300 billion over 2017 to 2019, falling just short of \$1 trillion. Trump has also signed two broader budget deals worked out by Democrats and Republicans to get rid of spending cuts left over from a failed 2011 budget accord. The result has been eye-popping spending levels for defense — to about \$750 billion this year — and comparable gains for domestic programs favored by Democrats.

The White House hasn't done much to draw attention to this year's budget release, though Trump has revealed initiatives of interest to key 2020 battleground states, such as an increase to \$250 million to restore Florida's Everglades and a move to finally abandon a multibillion-dollar, never used, nuclear waste dump

that's political poison in Nevada. The White House also leaked word of a \$25 billion proposal for "Revitalizing Rural America" with grants for broadband Internet access and other traditional infrastructure projects such as roads and bridges.

The Trump budget also promises a \$3 billion increase — to \$25 billion — for NASA in hopes of returning astronauts to the moon and on to Mars. It also is likely to reprise his small-bore infrastructure initiative — proposed in prior years to provide just \$200 billion in new federal contributions — while proposing a modest parental leave plan.

Trump had made a bit of a stir last month at a meeting of global economic elites in Davos, Switzerland, when he told a CNBC interviewer that "at some point" he would consider curbs to popular benefit programs like Medicare and Social Security.

"At the right time, we will take a look at that," Trump said. "You know, that's actually the easiest of all things." After Saturday's tweet, an administration official said, "Every current beneficiary will keep their benefits as the President has always promised."

Trump has proposed modest adjustments to eligibility for Social Security disability benefits and he's proposed cuts to Medicare providers such as hospitals, but the real cost driver of Medicare and Social Security is the ongoing retirement surge of the baby boom-generation and health care costs that continue to outpace inflation.

With Medicare and Social Security largely off the table, Trump has instead focused on Medicaid, which provides care to more than 70 million poor and disabled people. President Barack Obama successfully expanded Medicaid when passing the Affordable Care Act a decade ago, but Trump has endorsed GOP plans — they failed spectacularly in the Senate two years ago — to dramatically curb the program. □



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New Philadelphia police chief starts amid surge in homicides

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The new commissioner of the nation's fourth-largest city police force will start work Monday amid a surge in homicides and calls for action to address ongoing allegations of racism and gender discrimination. Danielle Outlaw, the former police chief of Portland, Oregon, was chosen by Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney from a pool of more than 30 candidates to take the helm of the 6,500-officer force.

Outlaw will be the first black woman to hold the position in Philadelphia. Since Kenney announced her appointment at the end of December, Philadelphia has had a spate of homicides — 39 in fewer than 40 days. That follows the deadliest year for Philadelphia in more than a decade, with 355 homicides reported last year. Kenney said Friday that he expects that Outlaw will begin by becoming familiar with the culture of the

city and listening to the concern of citizens and officers. He said he has high expectations that Outlaw will "usher in a new and better era for our city."

"I appointed Commissioner Outlaw because she has the conviction, courage, and compassion needed to bring long-overdue reform to the Department," he wrote in a statement. "With our support, she will tackle a host of difficult issues like racism and gender discrimination, while leading our administration's top priority of reducing the gun violence that plagues our city."

Outlaw did not respond to a request for comment through the city Friday, but she said at a news conference in December announcing her appointment that she brings a personal understanding to her role. "My sons are 21 and 18. I understand the fear that's out there in our communities of the police. I understand the mistrust. I understand also, on the other side, why we



In this Aug. 5, 2019, file photo, Portland Police Chief Danielle Outlaw poses for a photo in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press

do what we do in law enforcement," she said.

Prior to becoming the first black female chief in Portland about two years ago, Outlaw spent nearly 20 years with the police department in Oakland, California.

Former Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross Jr. abruptly resigned last summer after a lawsuit alleged that he ignored sexual harassment complaints because he'd once had an affair with one of the complaining officers. Ross denied that he had retaliated against anyone.

Recent lawsuits have accused department brass

of ignoring complaints that female officers were being sexually harassed by colleagues and supervisors and making it difficult for them to keep nursing when they return from maternity leave.

In October, a police inspector was charged with sexually assaulting three female officers he had mentored over the years. And in July, the department pledged to fire more than a dozen officers as part of a national investigation of racist and violent posts made to police social media pages. Most of those officers had resigned or retired as of January. □



In this Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017, file photo, British Airways planes are parked at Heathrow Airport in London.

Associated Press

British Airways flight crosses Atlantic in less than 5 hours

Associated Press

For the first time in years, a commercial passenger plane has flown across the Atlantic in less than five hours. A British Airways flight landed early Sunday morning at Heathrow Airport in London after leaving John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York just four hours and 56 minutes earlier. That set a new speed record for subsonic — or slower than the speed of sound — commercial aircraft to fly between the two cities, according to Flightradar24, which tracks global flights. The previous record was held by a Norwegian Air flight, which flew between the two cities with a flight time of five hours and 13 minutes. The flight had been expected to take 102 minutes longer. The re-

cent average flight time between New York and London is 6 hours and 13 minutes, according to Flightradar24. The wind and air currents were ideal for a fast flight, said Ian Petchenik, Flightradar24's director of communications. "In the winter, the jet stream dips down a bit," he said. "It's kind of in a perfect spot for flights across the North Atlantic to take advantage of it." British Airways just narrowly beat out a Virgin Atlantic flight, which arrived in London at around the same time but one minute slower. British Airways confirmed the flight time for the Boeing 747 plane, saying the company prioritizes safety over speed. The supersonic Concorde flights used to fly across the Atlantic in just over three hours, but stopped flying in 2003. □

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FDA crackdown on vaping flavors has blind spot: disposables

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government on Thursday began enforcing restrictions on flavored electronic cigarettes aimed at curbing underage vaping. But some teenagers may be one step ahead of the rules.

Parents, researchers and students warn that some young people have already moved on to a newer kind of vape that isn't covered by the flavor ban. These disposable e-cigarettes are sold under brands like Puff Bar, Stig and Fogg in flavors such as pink lemonade, blueberry ice and tropical mango.

The Food and Drug Administration's crackdown narrowly targets reusable vaping devices like Juul, the blockbuster brand that helped trigger the teen vaping craze in the U.S. Under the new policy, only menthol and tobacco flavors are allowed for those devices.

Critics of the FDA policy fear teens will simply switch to the cheaper disposables, which are widely available at convenience stores and gas stations.

"They are very accessible and seem to be the new buzzy product," said Dr. Karen Wilson, a tobacco researcher and pediatrician at Mount Sinai's medical school in New York.

The FDA confirmed that the flavor restriction won't apply to "self-contained, disposable products," but only to rechargeable ones that use pods or cartridges prefilled with a nicotine so-



In this Jan. 31, 2020 photo a woman holds a Puff Bar flavored disposable vape device in New York. On Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, the U.S. government began enforcing restrictions on flavored electronic cigarettes aimed at curbing underage vaping.

Associated Press

lution.

The agency's rationale: Reusable vaping devices are far and away the most popular with underage users, preferred by more than 60% of high schoolers who vape, according to survey data collected last year.

The FDA's top tobacco regulator said it can still go after any vaping product that appeals to teenagers. "If we see a product that is targeted to kids, we will take action," Mitch Zeller, who heads the agency's tobacco center, said in a statement.

Thursday was the deadline for makers of reusable e-cigarettes to stop selling fruity and candy flavors. Juul was already in compliance.

It dropped its best selling mint and most other flavors

before the ban was announced in early January and only sells tobacco and menthol.

At a congressional hearing Wednesday, the head of Fontem U.S., which makes blu vapes, was pressed to drop its vivid vanilla and cherry crush disposable e-cigarettes.

Fontem chief Antoine Blonde countered that its customers are adults, not children. Less than 3% of high school students who vape reported blu as their preferred brand, according to 2019 government data.

"We're not aware of any issue caused by our disposable flavors," Blonde said. Sales of disposable e-cigarettes and all other tobacco and vaping products are prohibited to teenag-

ers under the government's new age limit, which went from 18 to 21 late last year. High school student Philip Fuhrman says most of his New York classmates who vape have ditched Juul for disposables like Stig, a tiny e-cigarette sold in flavors like mighty mint and mango bomb.

They're easier to hide because "they're smaller and when you're done you can just throw it away," said the 16-year-old Fuhrman, who says he no longer vapes. He's now an anti-vaping activist and his mother is one of the founders of a parents' group opposed to youth vaping.

At \$20 for a three-pack, Stig may not seem cheap. But Fuhrman and other teens say it's a smaller investment than the \$40 or \$50 needed

to buy a Juul device and a four-pack of pods. Fuhrman says teens will instead buy a pack of Stigs "for the weekend and then just be done with it."

The makers of Stig, Puff Bar and Fogg disposables did not respond to requests for comment.

Analysts report that disposables are still just 5% of the nearly \$15 billion global vaping market, according to the firm ECigIntelligence. Researchers who study e-cigarette trash around high schools say they have noticed a shift in what teens are vaping. Jeremiah Mock, of the University of California, San Francisco, has been finding discarded Puff Bars in local school parking lots over the last three months.

Vape shop owners also say the market is changing.

Since the FDA announcement, distributors and manufacturers have ramped up their disposable offerings, according to Vapewerks owner Jeremy Gardner in Cumberland, Maryland.

"How do disposables get a free pass when they're essentially the same thing as a Juul or anything else that comes with a prefilled pod?" he asked.

Gardner doesn't stock his most requested brand, Puff Bar, but sells a rival disposable. Most of his business comes from larger, tank-based vapes, which are more popular with adults and allow users to customize flavors and nicotine concentrations.

Those products are exempt from government flavor restrictions. □

Florida man charged with driving into GOP voter sign-up tent

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) —

A man in Florida is under arrest after he deliberately drove a van into a tent where voters were being registered by local Republicans, authorities in Jacksonville said Sunday.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office said via social media that 27-year-old Gregory William Loel Timm has been charged with two counts of aggravated assault on a person 65 years old or older, one count of criminal mischief and driving with a suspended license. The Republican party of Duval County said it had set up the tent on Saturday in order to register voters.

The county GOP said via Twitter that six volunteers for President Donald Trump's campaign "were intentionally targeted while registering voters."

Local media said there were no injuries. "Kind of

out of the blue, a man approached us in a van, was waving at us, kind of a friendly demeanor, thought he was coming up to talk to us, instead he accelerated his vehicle and plowed right into our tent, our tables," volunteer Mark Alfieri told television station WJAX. Afterward, he backed up, recorded the damaged tent and scattered signs on his cell phone and made obscene gestures before leaving, Alfieri said. The sheriff's office says deputies responded to the scene after receiving reports of a dispute. The tent appeared to be set up in a parking lot. There were no online court records posted for Timm on Sunday morning, so it wasn't known if he had a lawyer. Jail records show he was still in custody Sunday morning. The sheriff's office on Sunday didn't immediately re-



In this Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, image taken from video a voter registration tent lays on its side after Gregory Timm drove a van through it, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Associated Press

turn a phone call or email seeking further details. Citing the president of a local theatrical workers union, television station WTLV reported that Timm was training to be a sound engineer.

In a tweet, GOP chairwoman Ronna McDaniel said, "These unprovoked, senseless attacks on @realDonaldTrump's supporters need to end." President

Donald Trump retweeted that message and added, "Be careful tough guys who you play with!" In a statement, the Duval County Democratic Party condemned what it called "this cowardly act of violence."

"No one's life should be placed in danger for exercising their First Amendment rights," the statement said. □

New cruise ship scheduled to visit Great Lakes in 2022

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) —

A cruise ship currently being built in Norway is scheduled to visit the Great Lakes, including a stop at Traverse City in northern Michigan eight times in 2022.

About a year ago, the Discovery Center & Pier announced plans to transform a former Michigan coal dock in Greilickville into a site that ships could use to land passengers — in efforts to attract more cruise ship traffic to Grand Traverse Bay, the Traverse City Record-Eagle reported.

The 665-foot-long (203-meter-long) Viking Octantis is offering four different itineraries, starting in January 2022. A sister ship, the Viking Polaris, is scheduled to launch in August 2022.

"This is all happening a little faster than we expected," said Discovery Center & Pier CEO Matt McDonough. "We didn't expect to have

eight ships come to call from one company in two years."

The cruise itinerary that includes dates in Traverse City, called "Niagara & the Great Lakes," will shuttle between Toronto and Milwaukee, with stops at Niagara Falls, Point Pelee on Lake Erie in Ontario, Detroit, Alpena and Mackinac Island.

Discovery Pier officials said they're excited about the scientific bent of Viking's planned cruises and the demographic the company is marketing toward.

"They're interested in learning about science, and the natural resources of the Great Lakes," McDonough said. "We're talking with our partners on developing programming for them."

Viking, based in Switzerland, launched in 1997 as Viking River Cruises and operates river vessels and ocean ships. □

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Hurricane-force winds pound UK and Europe, upend travel

By **SHEILA NORMAN-CULP**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Storm Ciara battered the U.K. and northern Europe with hurricane-force winds and heavy rains Sunday, halting flights and trains and producing heaving seas that closed down ports. Soccer games, farmers' markets and cultural events were canceled as authorities urged millions of people to stay indoors, away from falling tree branches. Named by the U.K. Met Office weather agency, the storm brought massive gusts that hit 93 mph (150 mph) at the northern Welsh village of Aberdaron and 86 mph (138 kph) at the Welsh town of Capel Curig. A British Airways plane is thought to have made the



Waves lash the coast on the Ayrshire coast at Ardrossan, Scotland, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020.

Associated Press

fastest ever flight by a conventional airliner from New

York to London.

The fierce winds propelled a Boeing 747-436 to make the 3,500-mile transatlantic journey from New York to London in just 4 hours and 56 minutes, landing 102 minutes early and reaching a top speed of 825 mph (1,327 kph), according to flight tracking website Flightradar24. Two Virgin Airlines flights also roared across the Atlantic, with all three smashing the previous subsonic New York-to-London record of 5 hours and 13 minutes, Flightradar24 reported.

Storm surges ate away at beaches and pounded rock cliffs and cement docks. The Met Office issued 190 emergency flood warnings and urged people not to try to drive through flooded roads. Residents in the town of Appleby-in-Westmorland in northwest England battled to protect their homes amid severe flooding as the River Eden burst its banks.

Three people were injured after a pub roof partially collapsed Saturday evening in the city of Perth in

central Scotland.

At least 10 rail companies in Britain sent out "do not travel" warnings, while nearly 20 others told passengers to expect extensive delays. The strong winds damaged electrical wires and littered train tracks with broken tree limbs and other debris, including a family trampoline.

London's Heathrow Airport and several airlines consolidated flights Sunday to reduce the number cancelled by heavy winds. British Airways offered to re-book customers for domestic and European flights out of Heathrow, Gatwick and London City airports. Virgin Airlines canceled some flights.

Lufthansa airlines said there would be numerous cancellations and delays beginning Sunday afternoon and running until at least Tuesday morning. The airline plans to keep operating long-haul flights at its main Frankfurt hub. Eurowings, a budget subsidiary of Lufthansa, canceled most flights for the duration of the storm.

Brussels Airport also saw delays or cancellations.

Two huge ports on either side of the English Channel, Dover in England and Calais in France, shut down operations amid high waves. Ferries were canceled across the region, including in the turbulent Irish Sea and North Sea.

The Humber Bridge in northern England also shut down, a move its website said was only the second time the massive bridge had been entirely closed.

Breaking with her usual Sunday routine, Queen Elizabeth II did not attend church in Sandringham due to high winds.

A cow was spotted on a main highway in southern England after high winds blew down fences.

Adding to the weather woes, heavy snow was predicted for Monday in some parts of the U.K.

In Ireland, power was knocked to an estimated 10,000 homes, farms and businesses. National weather agency Met Eireann warned that a combination of high tides, high seas and stormy conditions had created a significant risk of coastal flooding, particularly in the west and northwest.

Fierce winds knocked out electricity in northern France as well. Paris authorities sent out a warning to residents and tourists alike to stay indoors for their own safety. Parks and cemeteries in the city of Lille and nearby towns shut down as strong winds cracked heavy branches. Open-air markets closed early.

Luxembourg and the German city of Cologne announced that all school children could stay home Monday to avoid travelling under dangerous conditions. □



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U.S. ambassador to Israel warns against West Bank annexation

JERUSALEM (AP) — The U.S. ambassador to Israel has cautioned Israel against "unilateral action" in annexing West Bank settlements, warning that such a move could endanger the Trump administration's recently unveiled Mideast plan. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had initially sought to move quickly to annex large swathes of the West Bank containing Jewish settlements, following the U.S. plan's announcement on Jan. 28. Netanyahu called for his Cabinet to vote on such a measure, only to call it off a day later. The move would have risked provoking a harsh backlash from the Palestinians and the international community. U.S. Ambassador David Friedman wrote Sunday on Twitter that "the application of Israeli law to the territory which the Plan provides to be part of Israel is subject to the completion of a mapping process by a

joint Israeli-American committee."

"Any unilateral action in advance of the completion of the committee process endangers the Plan & American recognition," he said.

Last month, senior Trump aide Jared Kushner said days after the plan's announcement that the administration would not support Israel taking any unilateral steps to annex parts of the West Bank before the country's March 2 parliamentary elections.

The Palestinians seek the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem — areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war — for an independent state.

Most of the international community views Israel's east Jerusalem and West Bank settlements — now home to some 700,000 Israelis — as illegal. The Palestinians consider them a major obstacle to peace.

The Trump plan would al-

low Israel to annex all of its settlements along with the strategic Jordan Valley. It would give the Palestinians limited autonomy in several chunks of territory with a capital on the outskirts of Jerusalem, but only if they meet stringent conditions. While Prime Minister Netanyahu welcomed the plan as a "historic national mission," the Palestinians have adamantly rejected it.

In the face of U.S. criticism, Netanyahu has walked back his calls for immediate annexation of the West Bank. Addressing supporters on Saturday, Netanyahu said mapping of the region was underway, and rebuffed criticism from his nationalist allies over dragging his feet.

"We have been waiting for



In this March 26, 2019 file photo, United States Ambassador to Israel David Friedman speaks at the 2019 American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) policy conference, at Washington Convention Center, in Washington.

Associated Press

this since '67 and people are making a big deal over a few weeks," Netanyahu said.

Speaking at a conference in Jerusalem on Sunday,

Friedman said that "the president put out a plan for the next hundred years, not the next 30 days," alluding to the upcoming Israeli elections on March 2. □

U.S. says 2 soldiers killed, 6 wounded in Afghanistan attack

By **RAHIM FAIEZ** and **KATHY GANNON**
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Two U.S. soldiers were killed and six wounded in a so-called insider attack in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province late Saturday when an Afghan dressed in an Afghan army uniform opened fire, the U.S. military said. Afghanistan's defense ministry said one Afghan soldier was also killed and three injured in the assault. A member of Nangarhar's provincial council, Ajmal Omer, told The Associated Press that the gunman was killed. Neither the U.S. military nor the Afghan defense ministry have confirmed the attacker's fate.

The U.S. Department of Defense released later in the day the names of the dead American soldiers. They are Sgt. Javier Jaguar Gutierrez, 28; and Sgt. Antonio Rey Rodriguez, 28. Six U.S. service



In this Aug. 19, 2019, file photo, a man waves an Afghan flag during Independence Day celebrations in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Associated Press

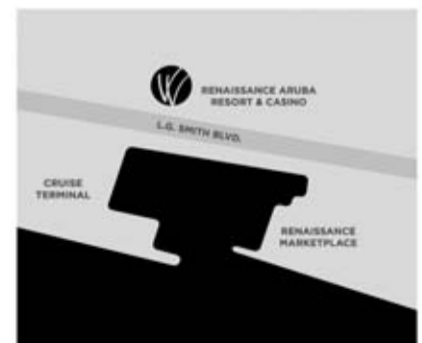
members have been killed in Afghanistan since the start of 2020, including Saturday's casualties. Last year, 22 U.S. service personnel died in combat there.

An Afghan defense ministry official, who was not identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said the shooter was an Afghan soldier who had argued with the U.S. forces before opening fire. He was not a Taliban infiltrator, the official said. □



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Iran again fails to put satellite into orbit amid U.S. worries

By **AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL**

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — An Iranian rocket failed to put a satellite into orbit on Sunday, state television reported, the latest setback for a program the U.S. claims helps Tehran advance its ballistic missile program.

The launch happened at 7:15 p.m. local time at Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Iran's Semnan province, some 230 kilometers (145 miles) southeast of Iran's capital, Tehran. A Simorgh, or "Phoenix," rocket couldn't put the Zafar 1 communications satellite into orbit, however, due to a low speed, Iranian state TV reported.

"Stage-1 and stage-2 motors of the carrier functioned properly and the satellite was successfully detached from its carrier, but at the end of its path it did not reach the required speed for being put in the orbit," Defense Ministry space program spokesman Ahmad Hosseini told state TV.

Hosseini still sought to portray the failure as a "remarkable" achievement for its space program. Previous Simorgh launches of the 80-ton satellite carrier suffered other failures.

In the days leading up to the launch, Iranian officials had been promoting the mission, including the country's Information and Communications Technology Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi. His quick rise through the Islamic Republic's carefully managed political system already is generating speculation he could be a can-

didate for Iran's 2021 presidential campaign.

Jahromi acknowledged the unsuccessful launch in a

Maxar Technologies obtained by The Associated Press showed the launch tower for the rocket bore

at the time. The rocket explosion in August drew even the attention of U.S. President Donald Trump,

continental ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

The State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment and the White House did not immediately acknowledge the launch.

Iran, which long has said it does not seek nuclear weapons, maintains its satellite launches and rocket tests do not have a military component. Tehran also says it hasn't violated the U.N. resolution as it only "called upon" Tehran not to conduct such tests. Western missile experts have also questioned the U.S. contention that Iran's program could have a dual use for nuclear weapons.

Over the past decade, Iran has sent several short-lived satellites into orbit and in 2013 launched a monkey into space.

The launch comes amid heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S. since Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers in May 2018. Iran since has begun breaking terms of the deal limiting its enrichment of uranium.

Meanwhile, a series of attacks across the Persian Gulf culminated with a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad killing Iran's Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani and a retaliatory ballistic missile strike by Iran on Iraqi bases housing American troops earlier this month. Iran also accidentally shot down a Ukrainian commercial airliner taking off from Tehran amid the tensions, killing all 176 people on board. □



In this image taken from video an Iranian rocket carrying a satellite is launched from Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Iran's Semnan province, some 230 kilometers (145 miles) southeast of Iran's capital, Tehran, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020.

Associated Press

tweet shortly after the news broke on state TV, comparing it to a "few samples of US launch failures."

"But We're UNSTOPPABLE! We have more Upcoming Great Iranian Satellites!" Jahromi tweeted in English, including a satellite emoji. He later tweeted in Farsi that "sometimes life does not go the way we like it to go."

He added: "Please do not pay attention to fake news."

The launch had been planned amid celebrations ahead of the February anniversary of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iran routinely unveils technological achievements for its armed forces, its space program and its nuclear efforts during this time. Satellite images by Colorado-based

massive images of the revolution's leader, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and the current Iranian supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran had spent just under 2 million euros to build the Zafar 1, Jahromi previously said. Officials planned for the satellite, whose name means "victory" in Farsi, to remain in orbit for 18 months before crashing back through the Earth's atmosphere and disintegrating.

Sunday's failure came after two failed launches of the Payam and Doosti satellites last year, as well as a launchpad rocket explosion in August. A separate fire at the Imam Khomeini Space Center in February 2019 also killed three researchers, authorities said

who later tweeted what appeared to be a classified surveillance image of the launch failure. The three failures in a row raised suspicion of outside interference in Iran's program, something Trump himself hinted at by tweeting that the U.S. "was not involved in the catastrophic accident."

Iran postponed the launch from Saturday, the same day the country faced a major cyberattack.

The U.S. alleges such satellite launches defy a U.N. Security Council resolution calling on Iran to undertake no activity related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons. American officials, as well as European nations, worry such launches could help Iran develop intercon-



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Thailand mourns victims of country's deadliest mass shooting

By PREEYAPA T. KHUNSONG
and TASSANEE VEJPONGSA
Associated Press

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, Thailand (AP) — As mourning began for the victims of Thailand's worst mass shooting, the country counted its losses: a mother shot dead at the wheel of her car as her son sat beside her, a 13-year-old student gunned down as he was riding his motorbike home and more than two dozen other people.

Authorities said the attack was carried out by a single gunman — a disgruntled soldier who opened fire on strangers before he was fatally shot Sunday at a shopping mall. Another 58 people were wounded.

The dead were mourned Sunday night in Nakhon Ratchasima, a hub for Thailand's relatively poor and rural northeastern region. More than 1,000 people turned up for the vigil led by Buddhist monks. They lit candles and prayed and chanted in the town square featuring a statue of Thao Suranari, a governor's wife who is revered for leading troops against invaders from Laos two centuries ago.

Officials said the gunman was angry over a financial dispute with his commanding officer. He made Col. Anantarote Krasae his first victim before stealing guns from an army camp and heading to the mall, shooting wildly along the way at people inside and outside the building.

The attacker was identified as Sgt. Maj. Jakrapanth Thomma, who holed himself up in the Terminal 21 Korat, an airport-themed mall filled with colorful Lego sculptures, a merry-go-round and huge replicas of landmarks from around the world.

After most mall employees and shoppers were evacuated, a joint police and military team hunted down the gunman and killed him. "This incident was unprecedented in Thailand," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha told reporters as he gave a casualty count after visiting the victims in hospitals. By the end of the day, the toll had risen to 29 people killed.

The death toll surpassed Thailand's last major attack on civilians, a 2015 bombing at Bangkok's Erawan Shrine that was allegedly carried out by human traffickers who killed 20.

"I hope this is the only one and the last incident and that it never happens again. No one wants this to happen. It could be because of this person's mental health in this particular moment," Prayuth said.

He said he was worried that people inside the mall could be accidentally hit by bullets fired by police, but added, "I have checked, that didn't happen."

Video taken outside the mall showed people diving for cover as shots rang out. Many were killed outside the mall, some in cars and others while walking. Survivors and victims' families gathered during the day at the city's hospitals, where they recounted their ordeals.

Cpl. Korakot Ampangeun was visited by Suwat Liptapanlop, a prominent politician from the area.

"I received an order from my superior to block off the road so that no one could go in the direction" of the gunman, the corporal recalled. "So I was signaling to oncoming traffic, when I turned around and saw him. If I had not, I would not have survived. I tried to

run and find somewhere to hide. But I could only take two steps and then I heard the sound — 'bang.' My leg just went and I couldn't walk. A good Samaritan helped carry me away."

High school student Nachote Chotiklang said he was in his mother's car as she passed the gunman's vehicle.

The assailant "got out of the car and fired into the window. At that, I ducked down and didn't do anything until I felt that car hit something. It hit a tree."

"What happened to your mom?" Suwat asked.

Nachote shook his head while another man explained that she had died. Another harrowing tragedy was recalled by Nuttawut Kanchanamethi, father of 13-year-old Rachanon Kanchanamethi, who had the nickname James Bond.

The middle school student was riding his motorbike home when the gunman fired on him from his car on



A group of armed commando soldiers walk close together outside Terminal 21 Korat mall, in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020.

Associated Press

his way to the mall. Rachanon, the family's only child, was one of the first victims. The father spoke at the first day of his son's Buddhist funeral.

"I don't want to lose him like this," Nuttawut said. "This is too sudden. We had

plans for him, growing up. That's all. We didn't impose any expectations on him." Nuttawut paused for a long moment.

"I want to continue taking care of him, but I no longer have that opportunity," he said, breaking into sobs. □

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In this March 14, 2019 file photo, a woman wears a T-shirt designed with an image of slain councilwoman Marielle Franco during a memorial Mass to mark the one-year anniversary of her death, at the Candelaria Catholic Church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press

Suspect in slaying of Rio councilwoman killed in operation

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A former military policeman being investigated for his possible involvement in the 2018 murder of a Rio de Janeiro councilwoman and activist was killed by special forces Sunday in Brazil's northeastern state of Bahia. Authorities had been looking for Adriano Magalhães da Nóbrega, who is thought to be involved in the killing of Marielle Franco, a prominent activist for Afro-Brazilian and LGBT rights, and her driver. The assassination shocked many Brazilians and sparked protests in several countries. The state's Secretary for Public Security said an elite squad of officers, known by its acronym BOPE, found da Nóbrega in the Bahian city of Esplanada. Da Nóbrega was a former member of BOPE in Rio. He was killed after resisting arrest and shooting at police forces, the Secretary of Public Security said. Daily O Globo reported that da Nóbrega's lawyer, Paulo Emílio Catta Preta, would ask for a full investigation of the operation. The lawyer said his client had been reluctant to surrender because he was convinced he would be killed in prison to prevent him from collaborating with investigators. Since the early days of the investigation into Franco's murder, authorities have pointed to police-linked militias. In March 2019, a year after her death, police arrested two former police officers, Ronnie Lessa and Elcio Vieira de Queiroz on suspicion of having carried out the attack. Lawyers for both men denied their involvement. Months later, Brazil's departing attorney general requested that five people be charged with obstruction of justice. The document cited two court officials, two police agents and a lawyer, alleging interference with the inquiry. But the mastermind of the killings remains unknown. On Twitter, Franco's former partner asked: "Who wins with the death of ex-Bope Adriano Nóbrega?" Left-wing party PSOL, to which Franco belonged, published its own statement, demanding full transparency on the circumstances of da Nóbrega's death. It said its Bahian lawmakers will request a hearing with the Secretary of Public Security, since the militia man was a "key piece to reveal several crimes." Franco was a prominent activist and an outspoken critic of Rio's violent police forces and paramilitary groups, but a year and a half after the assassination, the motive remains unclear. □



Haiti's President Jovenel Moïse speaks during an interview at his home in Petion-Ville, a suburb of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday, Feb. 7, 2020.

Associated Press

Haitian president lays out terms for deal with opposition

By **MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN**

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — President Jovenel Moïse said Friday that he is optimistic that negotiations with a coalition of his political opponents will succeed in forging a power-sharing deal to end months of deadlock that have left Haiti without a functioning government. In an interview with The Associated Press, Moïse laid out his bargaining position in the talks that began last week in the mission of the papal envoy to Haiti with political opponents and some civil society groups. He said he would accept an opposition prime minister and a shortened term in office, but only after adoption of a constitutional reform strengthening the presidency. Moïse said his efforts to improve living conditions for Haiti's 11 million people had been thwarted during his first three years in office by the constitutional requirement that the National Assembly must approve virtually all significant presidential actions. He said he would serve only a single term in office so he would not personally benefit from the powers of a stronger presidency. "It makes me optimistic to see my brothers and sisters from the political opposition, civil society and religious groups," he said. "I think we're at a crossroads." Moïse is a former banana farmer who won 56% of the vote against three opponents in the 2016 election. He made some progress on rural infrastructure projects during his first two years in office. Then the end of subsidized Venezuelan oil aid to Haiti fueled chaos in the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation. Without the help, the economy shrank, and investigations found questionable spending of hundreds of millions of dollars over the years in aid from the Petrocaribe program run by Venezuela. Protests began over the Petrocaribe mispending and protests snowballed until Moïse's op-

ponents waged a near-total lockdown of Haiti's capital for three months last fall. Protests were accompanied by a constant blocking of Moïse's agenda in the National Assembly. A small group of opposition legislators blocked Moïse proposals with tactics ranging from filibusters to throwing furniture inside the Senate chamber or calling supporters to block governing party senators access to the building. The country was unable to organize legislative elections and the National Assembly shut down last month, leaving Moïse without a constitutionally recognized government. He says the constitution allows him to rule by decree with legislative approval but he is choosing not to in order to forge national unity. Observers say developed nations that provide Haiti with most of its state budget are highly reluctant to keep funding a government that could be accused of moving toward dictatorship. Haiti's 1987 constitution was drafted after the end of three decades of dictatorship and aims in part to prevent the emergence of another strongman by sharply limiting presidential powers. "The 1987 constitution took all the power out of the president's hands. The president has zero power and the people demand everything from the president of the republic," Moïse told AP in the foyer of his home in the hills above Port-au-Prince. Moïse said he wants a new constitution to stipulate that presidential proposals automatically pass if the National Assembly does not vote them up or down within 60 days. He also wants all political terms to last five years. Senate terms currently range from two to six years, depending on a variety of factors, leading to constant churn and campaigning in a country where widespread insecurity and corruption make elections difficult to organize. □

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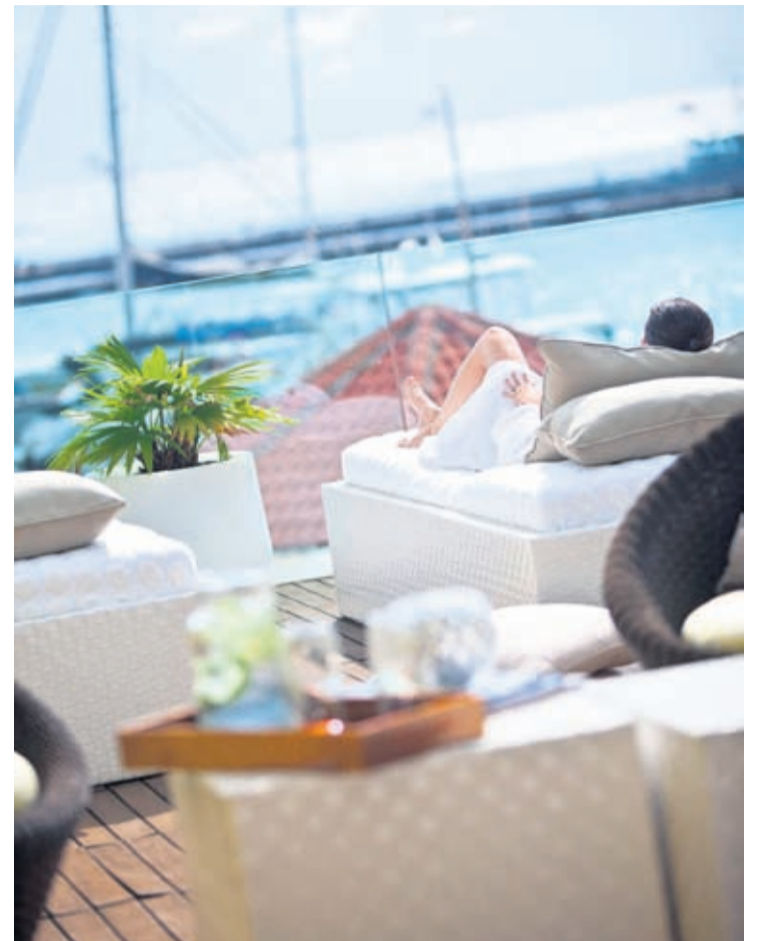
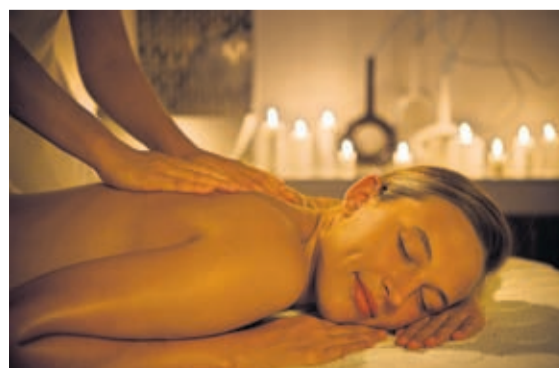
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Let us start by explaining why this is a stand-out spa. It is all about having choices. Everyone is different and therefore taste is a personal thing. Okeanos Spa gives you the option between indulging in their indoor spa with a wide variation of treatments and a view to kill at the marine's bay from the relax lounge or Hold your breath: take a boat shuttle to Renaissance Island, a 40-acre private tropical retreat with white sand beaches and crystal clear waters where the Spa Cove opens its massage heaven to you.

Zugheila Lindeborg, Local Marketing Manager: "We are located at the first floor of the Renaissance Resort & Casino and offer indoor and outdoor treatments. The outdoor treatments take place at the Renaissance's private island. Both spas are accessible for resort guests and non-resort guests. Both spas are adults only." She explains that body massages are offered at both locations while the indoor spa also has manicure, pedicure, facials and body wraps for men and women on the menu. "We do couples treatments, bachelorettes parties and groups. The spas are open Monday to Sunday from 8am to 8 pm."

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Full laughter at Aruba Ray Ellin's phenomenal show Top American standup comics give a fantastic performance for four more nights

EAGLE BEACH — The “Aruba Ray’s Comedy” show features some of the funniest American standup comedians in a terrific 90-minute show, and Aruba Today was there and had a blast. The show is now on at the Holiday Inn Resort Aruba until February 13th. It all begins and ends with host Ray Ellin. You will be amazed with his quick wit, sharp tongue and hilarious observations of the public, memorizing every targeted person in the audience throughout the whole show. Three top comedians took care of a full laughter show where you forget all your worries and walk out with a happy smile.

Celebrating six years of Excellence in Aruba, Aruba Ray’s Comedy is the number one rated Night Time Activity on TripAdvisor, the number one rated Show on TripAdvisor, and the number one rated Fun Activity on TripAdvisor. The show was

named as one of USA Today’s “10 Best”. This is the same caliber show you would find at a top comedy clubs in NYC. The line-up is truly some of the best and hottest comedians from the United States. This wonderful show is the best way to spend a night out “off-the-town”, so to speak.

The line-up during our visit was Brian Scott McFadden from CBS’ “The Late Show”, Kathleen Dunbar from “Last Comic Standing” and Lenny Marcus from NBC’s “Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon.” All three were simply the greatest in their own unique style. The setting is great in which you are seated close to the stage thus being able to see the faces of the comedians, in the case of Dunbar a must because she makes the funniest faces. The dry humor of Marcus, the brash jokes of Dunbar, and the hilarious characters and voices of McFadden all rocked. Ellin is a great host,



welcoming the audience personally at the entrance and shaking hands after the show. He is considered to be one of the best comedians of improvisation, and you will understand why, he was outstanding. We felt truly relaxed and happy after nearly two hours of gut-busting laughter and forgetting everything else.

Ray Ellin is considered by his peers to be the best host in NYC, and Ray is also known as “Aruba Ray” because of his passion for Aruba. Ray has been coming to Aruba every month for the past seven years, where

he produces and hosts these incredible comedy shows. Already popular in New York, the comedian has brought his talent and some of his colleagues to Aruba. He is also an executive producer of the television show “This Week at the Comedy Cellar” on Comedy Central, which is about to begin its third season.

Catch the show nightly at 8:30pm until February 13th in Holiday Inn Resort Aruba. Doors open at 8pm. Check out Aruba Today newspaper to keep track of the schedule. You may also find updates at www.ArubaComedy.com. □

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While enjoying your stay in Aruba you can make this day extra special by surprising your love with the help of Aruba Today. Despite the fact that we have wonderful dinner and gift options to choose from, advertised in our newspaper in the coming days up to February 14th, we can make this day even more special.

Surprise your loved one with a picture of her/him or both of you in Aruba Today, accompanied by your personal message. Imagine taking your vacation breakfast in the morning while going through the newspaper and all of a sudden you see YOU. This will make her or his day for sure.

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What Will We Do?

We will publish your picture and message in the local section of Aruba Today on Thursday February 14 in our printed newspaper and on our website and Facebook page.

Make her/him smile on this special day, do something different!

There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved. ... ~ George Sand



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Commemorating LOVE at Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino

PALM BEACH — The holiday dedicated to love will be celebrated at Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino with two very distinctive offerings, one at Sunset Grille restaurant with a Valentine's Day dinner for two or more extravagantly, on the beach at a romantic celebration of love, with an elegant renewal of vows ceremony also followed by an exquisite four-course meal, toes in the sand.

Valentine's Day dinner at Sunset Grille restaurant includes two, four-course meals priced at \$109 per couple, and includes a choice of starters, such as Caesar Salad, Steakhouse Wedge or Seared Sesame Ahi Tuna, followed by a Lobster Bisque Shooter Intermezzo and a choice of signature entrees, Local Red Snapper Creole, Petit Filet Mignon 6 oz., Organic Chicken Breast or Pan Roasted Norwegian Salmon, with Caribbean Pumpkin Risotto.

A Valentine's Day Lovers' Dessert for two, concludes the romantic dining experience. Sunset Grille is open daily from 5:30pm to 10:30pm.

For reservations +297 526 6612 or email hiltonconcierge@depalmtours.com. Incurable romantics will de-

light in the resort's Renewal of Vows Dinner, which takes off in a tropical-style setting with an elegant renewal of vows ceremony on the beach, followed by an exquisite four-course meal.

The set dinner menu starts with local, handmade Burrata cheese and ripe tomatoes, with prosciutto, and grilled vegetables, pesto and balsamic dressing, followed by a Lobster Bisque Shooter Intermezzo, and a Surf and Turf main course, with Lobster tail and Filet Mignon, baby potatoes and asparagus served with butter and lemon. Valentine's Day Lovers' Dessert for two includes a triple chocolate torte, with chocolate covered strawberries.

The Vow Renewal ceremony & dinner is \$94 per person, with a dinner only option for \$84 per person.

The Vow Renewal Ceremony starts just before sunset at 5:45pm, with two dinner seatings at 6:30pm & 8:00pm thereafter.

Tickets may be purchased, starting February 11th in the Aruba Tower Lobby from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

Both celebrations of love on February 14th offer specials on French Moët & Chandon and Veuve Clicquot champagne, at \$99 Bottle or \$15 per flute.

On Valentine's day, show your affection and appreciation to each other at Valentine's Day Dinner at the Sunset Grille or at an unforgettable Vow Renewal and Dinner on the beach, commemorating your love that has only deepened and matured over the years. □

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Caribbean Night

Saturday at 8:00pm
Violin Night

Sunday at 8:00pm
Aruba Has Talent

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Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. As a Family and Landscape photographer Steve is ready to create your next 'vacation memories', morning and/or sunset shots. T: (297) 738-0777, M: stevefrancees@hotmail.com, www.instagram.com/stevefrancees and www.stevefrancees.com



Winnie is celebrating her birthday in Aruba



Winnie and Skip have been coming to Aruba twice a year for the last 33 years and we all are in love with this amazing couple. Born 81 years ago but with the energy of a young 18 years old girl. Before Aruba they travelled all over the Caribbean but they love Aruba so much that they decided to make Aruba their second home twice a year. Masha pabien Winnie!

Yes, you must take a day cruise



On social media someone asked me the question whether to take a day cruise or not and I said yes because being on a few hours cruising will add another excitement on your vacation experience. You can choose for a morning snorkeling, mid-day or sunset romantic cruise and I guarantee that you will have tons of fun. The best is that you will see Aruba from another perspective and you will be amazed of the coastline. A cruise will also strengthen your love life like happened with this couple.

One happy colorful island



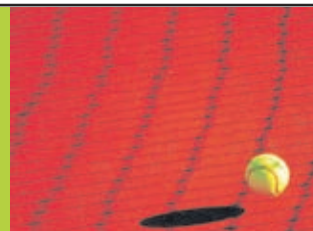
Here in Aruba you can see from sunrise to sunset a variety of colors and that's the happiness secret. Sunrise can go from dark grey to blue, red and yellow in a few minutes. Yellow, blue and white will cover the day and sunset will have the best reunion of all the happy colors for you to enjoy. I like this photo because it gives the happy tonality of Aruba colors.

Kiss me under the Fofoti tree



Probably you know the song 'Kiss me' by Sixpence none the richer. If not please look it up on YouTube and I'm sure you will not leave Aruba without a kiss under this famous tree after listening to that song. The Fofoti tree is the most iconic tree in the Caribbean and also the most photographed and media-posted tree in our region. At Baby Beach you can see a similar Fofoti tree so don't leave my island without a photo of one of them.

SPORTS



U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher blocks a shot during the first half of a CONCACAF women's Olympic qualifying soccer match against Canada Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press

U.S. women beat Canada 3-0 in Olympic qualifying final

By ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

CARSON, Calif. (AP) —

Lynn Williams broke open a scoreless stalemate with a goal in the 61st minute and the United States beat Canada 3-0 on Sunday in the title match of the CONCACAF Women's Olympic qualifying tournament.

Lindsey Horan and Megan Rapinoe also scored for the United States, which extended its undefeated streak to 28 games. The United States did not concede a goal in five qualifying matches, and scored 25 times.

The U.S. and Canada had both already secured spots at the Tokyo Games with victories in the semi-finals. The region has two Olympic berths.

The United States, ranked No. 1 in the world, beat Mexico 4-0 in one semifinal and eighth-ranked Canada edged Costa Rica in the other game on Friday.

The U.S. has been to every Olympics since women's soccer was included in 1996, and has won four gold medals.

Continued on Page 23



Nick Taylor wins at Pebble Beach, Mickelson finishes 3rd

Nick Taylor, of Canada, poses with his trophy on the 18th green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links after winning the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Associated Press
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Jones wins crash-fest at Daytona to open NASCAR season

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.
(AP) —

The first race of the NASCAR season was a demolition derby that turned Daytona International Speedway into a giant junkyard.

The Busch Clash? More like the Busch Crash.

Erik Jones won Sunday's race that left a multi-million dollar trail of destruction and masked the fact the Clash was a made-for-TV exhibition race. Only 18 cars were entered and only six were on track when the checkered flag flew at the end of a third overtime. Jones crossed the finish line in a Toyota with a crumpled hood after a huge push from Joe Gibbs Racing teammate and defending Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin.

"I've got to give a huge thanks to Denny there ... he stuck with us there that whole last lap," Jones said. "It wasn't the fastest car I don't think left in the race, but we brought it home. I owe him one for that one, for sure."

Hamlin was a lap down after a blown tire on the previous overtime attempt caused him to crash half the cars remaining on track, but he had enough speed to push Jones along the outside and give Gibbs yet another win. The Gibbs organization won 19 races last year, went 1-2-3 in the Daytona 500 and won the Cup Series title.

Joe Gibbs is now the all-time winningest owner in Busch Clash history with nine victories.

Brad Keselowski was among those incensed by the aggressive late blocking. The race was fairly anti-climactic until two wrecks in the final nine laps sent it into overtime, and as Keselowski railed against the racing that ended his day, Hamlin got a flat tire as the leader on a restart and collected most of the cars on track.

"Dumb, dumb racing," said Keselowski, who slapped the side of an ambulance with both hands in frustration. "We shouldn't

be wrecking all these cars. You'd think these guys would be smarter than that. It's the same thing over and over, somebody throws a stupid block that's never going to work and wrecks half the field.

"I don't know. Maybe we need to take the helmets out of these cars and the seat belts out. Somebody will get hurt, and then we'll stop driving like (expletive)." Kyle Busch, collected in the accident that ended Keselowski's day when teammate Joey Logano tried to block Busch, said the crashes are a product of superspeedway racing.

"Either you can race or you can wreck," Busch said. "The reason why we ride in single file (early in the race) is because we don't

know how to race. Just a product of a few bad decisions there and we're all crashed."

The cars raced in Sunday's exhibition event are backups for the Feb. 16 season-opening Daytona 500.

The 75-lap event ended up going 88 laps because of the late crashes, making it the longest in history.

Austin Dillon was second in the new Chevrolet Camaro and followed by Clint Bowyer in a Ford for Stewart-Haas Racing. Kyle Larson was fourth for Chip Ganassi Racing and Ryan Newman, in a Roush Fenway Racing Ford, was fifth and the last car on the lead lap.

Hamlin in sixth had the only other car running at the



Erik Jones celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Busch Clash auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

end and ended up being a solid teammate.

"It's so awesome," Hamlin said. "I knew he needed to strap in because, that last lap, I was going to push

him. I didn't care if I was going to push him into a wreck. I was just going to push him. It was fun."

Jones led just one lap, the last one. □

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Located at Riu Antillas as formerly The Westin Resort.

Taylor handles the wind, Mickelson to win at Pebble Beach

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) —

Nick Taylor had more trouble with the wind than he did with Phil Mickelson. The Canadian managed both just fine Sunday and won the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am for his second career victory.

With the gallery eager to see Mickelson add a record sixth victory at Pebble Beach, Taylor showed plenty of moxie in building a five-shot lead at the turn and then holding on when 40 mph gusts blasted the Monterey Peninsula.

He closed with a 2-under 70 for a four-shot victory over Kevin Streelman (68). Mickelson, who closed within two shots with four holes to play, shot 74 and finished alone in third. He has won, been runner-up twice and finished third in his last four starts at the Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Taylor won in his fourth start as a PGA Tour rookie at the 2015 Sanderson Farms Championship in Mississippi, at the time an opposite-field event that didn't feature any of the top players. He went 146 starts on the PGA Tour until his next victory, and it was a big one. The victory gets him into the Masters for the first time, along with the PGA Championship up the coast at Harding Park in May. In his sixth year on tour, Taylor has played only two majors



Nick Taylor, of Canada, walks off the 18th green of the Pebble Beach Golf Links with his wife Andie and son Charlie after winning the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Associated Press

as a pro. "That was amazing," Taylor said. "I believed I could do it because I've done it before. But to do it in that fashion, playing with Phil, gives me a lot of confidence going forward." Taylor started the final round with a one-shot lead over Mickelson, and they were tied after Lefty got up-and-down from a bunker on the par-5 second. Seven holes later, Taylor had a five-shot lead. He holed a 15-foot birdie putt on the fourth, a 10-foot birdie putt on the par-3 fifth, and then he holed a bun-

ker shot for eagle on the par-5 sixth hole, the kind of short-game shot everyone expected out of Mickelson. And then it got ugly for Mickelson. He went over the green at No. 8 and played an aggressive chip that rolled by the flag, down the slope and back into the fairway. He pitched the next one too far and made double bogey, and then made bogey on the ninth as Taylor holed a 7-foot birdie to go five shots ahead. Thanks to the wind, it wasn't quite over.

Five holes later, Mickelson had cut the lead to two despite having only one birdie putt, a tap-in on No. 10. Taylor ran into tree trouble off the tee at No. 11, flew the green into a back bunker on No. 12 and then took double bogey on the par-5 14th hole when he found a bunker off the tee, could only advance it about 100 yards and took five to reach the green. The wind was blowing so hard at that point that Taylor's cap blew off his head and he had to chase it down the fairway before

hitting his third shot from 227 yards away.

Mickelson, however, missed his chances to capitalize on Taylor's mistakes.

He came up short of the 11th green from just under 100 yards with Taylor in trouble. He didn't hit a green in regulation after his tap-in birdie on the 10th until his tee shot on the par-3 17th that settled 40 feet away.

Taylor seized control by chipping in for birdie on the 15th for a three-shot lead, and the knockout punch was his tee shot to 6 feet below the hole for birdie on the 17th.

He finished at 19-under 268, earning a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour.

Mickelson wasn't the only player who struggled. Dustin Johnson shot a 78. Matt Every, in the third-to-last group, shot 80. Jason Day closed with a 75.

The best round and best finish belonged to Jordan Spieth, who chipped in to save par on his final hole for a 67. It was the low round of the day and enabled Spieth to finish in a tie for ninth. That narrowly moves him back into the top 50 and makes him eligible for a World Golf Championship in Mexico City in two weeks. Streelman also leaves with a trophy.

He teamed with Arizona Cardinals receiver Larry Fitzgerald to easily win the pro-am for the second time in three years. □

LPGA Tour cancels 2 more Asia tournaments due to coronavirus

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

The LPGA Tour has canceled two more tournaments in Asia because of the coronavirus, knocking out three of the five tournaments that comprise its first international swing.

The LPGA said Sunday night the Honda LPGA Thailand, scheduled for Feb. 20-23, and the HSBC Women's World Championship in Singapore, scheduled for the following week, have been canceled.

It previously postponed the Blue Bay LPGA on Hainan Island in China over concerns about the new type of coronavirus, which

originated in Wuhan, China. Mainland China reported another rise in cases with deaths increasing by 97 to 908. China's health ministry said 40,171 people have been affected on the mainland.

The cancellations of the Thailand and Singapore events were "due to the continued health concerns and recent advisories in some Asian countries" that large-scale events should not be held, the LPGA Tour said in a statement.

"It is always a difficult decision to cancel events and the LPGA greatly appreciates the understanding and all the efforts made by our title sponsors (Honda and

HSBC) as well as IMG to host incredible events for our players," the statement said.

"The health and safety of our players, fans and everyone working on the event is always our highest priority."

The Thailand event dates to 2006, while the HSBC Women's World Championship dates to 2008.

They have been the backbone of the LPGA Tour's international events, offering fields limited to top players, no cuts and a lucrative time for players who are given free travel and lodging in premium hotels.

The Women's Australian Open is this week in Adelaide, the sec-

ond straight week in Australia. The cancellation means after this week, the LPGA Tour will be out of action a full month before returning with the Founders Cup in Arizona on March 19.

Two other golf events in Asia have been postponed or moved. The PGA Tour China Series moved its qualifier from China to Singapore.

The R&A announced this week that it was canceling the Women's Asia-Pacific Amateur in Thailand, the premier amateur event in Asia that rewards the winner with a spot in two LPGA majors and the Augusta National Women's Amateur. □

Celtics edge Thunder 112-111 for 7th straight win

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — With most of their lead gone, the Boston Celtics needed someone to make a stop in the final seconds. As usual, Marcus Smart took it upon himself. Smart stole the ball from Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander with 5.8 seconds left, helping the Celtics hold on for a 112-111 victory over the Thunder on Sunday.

"I didn't even want to give them an attempt to even get a shot up and a chance to tie the game or come close to it," Smart said.

Kemba Walker scored 27 points and Jayson Tatum had 26 for the Celtics, who won their seventh straight. "Good, tough teams," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "A lot of smart basketball and then we almost gave it away at the end. But, you know, up to that point I think we played really hard and really well." Jaylen Brown finished with 17 points for the Celtics, who made 16 3-pointers. One of them, by Smart with

8:19 remaining, gave Boston the lead for good. Danilo Gallinari and Gilgeous-Alexander each had 24 points for the Thunder, while point guards Chris Paul and Dennis Schroder finished with 22 apiece. Oklahoma City had its four-game winning streak snapped.

"I thought our guys really, really competed and played," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "We weren't able to finish well enough in some crucial situations."

Oklahoma City led 61-52 at halftime but Tatum heated up in the third quarter. His 3-pointer made it 70-68 with 7:38 left in the period. "I thought they were the aggressor in the last 14 minutes of the first half," Stevens said. "And then we were great out of the gate in the second and then it went back and forth."

Boston led 109-101 after Walker made his second straight 3-pointer, but Oklahoma City battled back and had a chance to tie after Schroder blocked

Gordon Hayward's layup. But Smart stripped Gilgeous-Alexander before he had a chance to take what would have been a game-tying 3-pointer. "It took a lot of grit," Tatum said. "They are a really good team. They are tough and they compete, so we just had to match their intensity."

Paul hit a 3-pointer at the final buzzer, but Smart's defense was enough to clinch the win.

"I saw an opportunity to make a play, and I made it," Smart said.

TIP-INS

Celtics: Brown and Daniel Theis both were questionable before tipoff with right ankle sprains, but both started and played at least 30 minutes. ... Tatum scored 12 points on 5-of-7 shooting in the third quarter. ... Smart picked up a technical foul because he stayed on the court after the halftime buzzer arguing with officials.

Thunder: Gilgeous-Alexander didn't record a block for the first time in 10



Boston Celtics Kemba Walker (8) shoots over Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Oklahoma City.

Associated Press

games. ... Terrance Ferguson played 26:18 in his third game back from an eight-game absence for personal reasons. He didn't score. ... Darius Bazley didn't play after halftime because a right knee sprain. He injured his knee on a layup late in

the second quarter.

CAPITALIZING

The Celtics forced only 10 Thunder turnovers, but they were able to score 21 points off of those. Boston also excelled in fast-break situations, scoring 12 points on 5-of-6 shooting. □

Morant posts 1st triple-double as Grizzlies drop Wizards

By IAN QUILLEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ja Morant had 27 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his first career triple-double to help the Memphis Grizzlies overcome poor 3-point shooting in a 106-99 victory over the Washington Wizards on Sunday night.

Morant scored 10 of his points in the fourth quarter for Memphis, which closed the game on a 22-8 run after trailing for most of the second half. Kyle Anderson added 16 points and Jaren Jackson Jr. had 14 for the Grizzlies, who won despite shooting 5 of 32 from beyond the arc. Jonas Valanciunas had 18 rebounds. Bradley Beal scored 26 points for Washington, which led by as many as 12 points early but shot 4 of 26 in the fourth quarter.

Rui Hachimura had 12 points and 11 assists in the



Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant (12) and Washington Wizards forward Rui Hachimura (8) battle for the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

Wizards' third loss in their last 10 games at home. Moritz Wagner had 19 points off the bench, while Davis Bertans added 15. Morant was the instigator throughout the Grizzlies' late run. He found Anderson underneath for a layup to tie it at

93 with 5:33 remaining before hitting two free throws to give Memphis its first lead of the half 26 seconds later. Clarke's 3-pointer on his only attempt behind the arc stretched the lead to five before Morant found Anderson inside again to

make it 102-95.

Morant's 3 from the right elbow with made it 105-96 with 44 seconds remaining, sending much of the Washington crowd to the exits.

TIP-INS

Grizzlies: Missed their first seven 3-point attempts. ...

F/C Jordan Bell and C Gorgui Dieng were available, but did not play. Memphis picked up Bell from Houston and Dieng from Minnesota at the trade deadline. Wizards: Traded from the Los Angeles Clippers Thursday, G Jerome Robinson's first points since came on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer that gave Washington its largest lead 30-18 at the end of the first quarter. ... Hachimura's double-double was the third of his career.

WAITERS WAIVED

The Grizzlies waived G Dion Waiters on Sunday, three days after acquiring him from Miami Heat in a three-team trade also involving Minnesota. Waiters had been suspended three times by the Heat this season, including a 10-game ban following a drug-related incident on a team plane. □

NHL-worst Red Wings beat league-best Bruins 3-1 for 2nd time

By **LARRY LAGE**

AP Hockey Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The NHL's worst team beat the best. Again.

Andreas Athanasiou snapped a tie midway through the third period and scored an empty-net goal in the final minute, lifting the Detroit Red Wings to a 3-1 win over the Boston Bruins on Sunday.

"When we're playing good hockey and we get good goaltending, we're going to give anybody a hard challenge," Detroit coach Jeff Blashill said. "That's just the way the NHL is. The parity's at an all-time high."

The Red Wings (14-39-4) are looking up at the rest of the NHL in the standings, but the rebuilding team has defeated the league-leading Bruins (34-11-12) in both of their games this season. "It seems like they get excited to play us," said Torey Krug, who scored Boston's only goal. "For whatever reason, it's a tough match-up for us."

Boston had won six straight until the Red Wings stopped the streak with their second win in three games.

"Give Detroit credit for winning the hockey game, but I don't think they were the better team," Bruins coach



Detroit Red Wings goaltender Jonathan Bernier (45) stops a Boston Bruins left wing Brad Marchand (63) shot in the third period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Bruce Cassidy.

Detroit had the better goaltender, like it did in the previous meeting.

Jonathan Bernier made 39 saves for the Red Wings. He also started Detroit's win over Boston three months ago.

Boston's Tuuka Rask stopped 17 shots while filling in for Jaroslav Halak, who was dealing with an upper-body injury that flared up Saturday morning.

The Red Wings, who have

won five straight against the Bruins dating to last season, beat Boston 4-2 on Nov. 8. They play in Boston on Saturday and again in March.

Brendan Perlini put the Red Wings up early in the second period and Krug tied it early in the third.

Athanasiou restored Detroit's lead on a power play. He sealed the victory by scoring again with 29 seconds left after Rask was pulled to give Boston an ex-

tra skater.

Detroit took its first lead 2:07 into the second when Perlini skated around defenseman Brandon Carlo and his wrist shot got past Rask's glove.

It was Perlini's first goal in 31 games this season. He was acquired in a trade with Chicago in October.

The Bruins had a goal negated by video review, which determined they were offside before Brad Marchand scored midway

through the second.

"I got lucky there, getting that call," Bernier said.

Boston's Patrice Bergeron said it was his fault the goal didn't stand because he didn't get onside before going to the bench.

"It's on me to get off the ice," he said. "I usually get off on the right side of the blue line."

Replay was not needed early in the third when Krug shot into an open net vacated by Bernier, who bit on David Pasternak's shot fake before he made a cross-crease pass.

Athanasiou scored on a shot that got between Rask's glove and the post 7:10 into the third, putting the Red Wings ahead 2-1. His second goal was his seventh of his injury-shortened season.

"I think confidence matters again and obviously these two goals will be big for him," Blashill said.

Boston's Chris Wagner had an opportunity to tie the game with four-plus minutes left, but he shot wide of an open net.

"Twice our forwards missed wide-open nets," Cassidy said. "You have to put those away in close games or it will come back to cost you in the end." □

Suter wins 1st super-G, month after 1st downhill triumph



Switzerland's Corinne Suter reacts in the finish of an alpine ski, women's World Cup super G, in Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020.

Associated Press

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (AP) — A month ago Corinne Suter had not won a women's World Cup downhill or super-G race in her career, now the Swiss skier is lead-

ing the season standings in both disciplines.

Suter got her first win in a super-G on Sunday, four weeks after winning her first downhill.

Suter coped with tricky

conditions on the Kandahar course to beat Austria's Nicole Schmidhofer by 0.43 seconds and her Swiss teammate Wendy Holdener by seven tenths. "It was absolutely no perfect run," said Suter, an early starter with bib No. 5. "I didn't have a good feeling at the finish, my expectations were not very high." Suter became the fifth different winner in five super-G races this season. The Swiss skier finished third in a race in Lake Louise, Alberta, in December and Sunday's victory sent her top of the discipline standings, 39 points clear of Italy's Federica Brignone.

After getting her first win in Altenmarkt-Zauchensee in January, Suter is also leading the downhill rankings,

with Mikaela Shiffrin 61 points behind in second. Even though she was missing a win until recently, Suter has made a name for herself as a consistent contender in speed races. She racked up six podium places since February 2019, and won silver in downhill and bronze in super-G at last season's world championships. On Sunday, Brignone finished in fifth and closed the gap to overall leader Shiffrin to 145 points. The American, who won the super-G world championship and World Cup title last season, is taking a break from ski racing since the death of her father, Jeff Shiffrin, last week.

Many racers struggled to keep their balance on the

course, which caused difficulties because of its icy surface with patches of grippy snow.

"The conditions are very variable, you have to be flexible," Suter said.

The two winners of the first two super-G races this season, Viktoria Rebensburg and Sofia Goggia, both landed in the safety netting after similar crashes and sustained season-ending injuries.

The German ski federation said Rebensburg, who won a downhill here on Saturday, had hurt her left knee and would need six to eight weeks for recovery, while Goggia underwent surgery for a fractured left arm and was ruled out for six weeks, according to the Italian federation. □



Canada goalkeeper Stephanie Labbe blocks a shot during the first half of a CONCACAF women's Olympic qualifying soccer match against the United States Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press

U.S. women

Continued from Page 18

But the Americans were knocked out in the quarterfinals by Sweden four years ago in Brazil, the team's earliest Olympic exit.

Canada has made the field in the past three Olympics, winning the bronze medal in the last two.

It was the fourth time the teams have met in the final of the qualifying tournament, with the United States winning all four.

U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski started Lynn Williams and Jessica McDonald, giving Tobin Heath the day off. Rapinoe came in as a substitute. Other veterans on the bench included defenders Becky Sauerbrunn and Kelley O'Hara. Julir Ertz wore the captain's armband for her 99th appearance with the team. Christen Press, who had scored in the team's last six games, also started. Press was the fifth U.S. woman to score in six straight games, joining Mia Hamm, Michelle Akers, April Heinrichs and Carli Lloyd. It was the longest such streak for the U.S. since Lloyd scored in seven straight in 2014.

As expected, Canada coach Kenneth Heiner-Moller emphasized defense against his offensively proficient opponent, starting five defenders. The approach worked through the first half.

Jessie Fleming, who was a standout at UCLA, had a chance for Canada that went over the goal and into the netting.

Press' blast in the 32nd minute hit the crossbar. A few moments later, she caught Canada goalkeeper Stephanie Labbe far out in front of her net, but the attempt from distance sailed over the goal.

Christine Sinclair's attempt on a breakaway in the 38th minute was stopped by U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher.

Williams finally broke through Canada's defense with a blast into the upper corner for a 1-0 lead. Horan doubled it 10 minutes later when she dribbled around two defenders and finished with a perfectly placed shot that Labbe couldn't reach.

After her late goal, Rapinoe struck her victory pose, made famous last summer when the United States won the World Cup.

Both teams went undefeated in the run-up to the final, with Canada scoring 23 goals and the United States scoring 22.

Sinclair became the all-time leading international goal scorer during the group stage. She has 186 goals; retired U.S. star Abby Wambach had 184.

Canada has won just three times in the 60-match series against their North American rival.

Attendance was announced at 17,489 at Dignity Health Sports Park, home of the LA Galaxy. The United States hasn't lost on home soil since July 2017. □



U.S. players celebrate Megan Bozek's overtime goal against Canada in a Rivalry Series hockey game in Anaheim, Calif., Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020. The United States won 4-3 and won the series.

Associated Press

Women's hockey looks to keep momentum after Rivalry Series

By JOE REEDY
AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Women's hockey has been in the spotlight the past couple weeks with the Rivalry Series and the NHL's All-Star weekend.

It's valuable exposure in a non-Olympic year, and the big challenge is trying to sustain the momentum.

With the five-game series between the United States and Canada concluding on Saturday and progress toward a viable league at a standstill, the next big event won't happen until March 31, when the World Championships begin in Canada.

"The last few weeks have been special for players and fans but hopefully these opportunities continue to build," said U.S. forward Hillary Knight, who had three goals in the series. "You can get on a treadmill and run until you are blue in the face or get on a line and sprint back and forth but there is nothing like playing in games and being in game shape. It's challenging but every single day we know what our responsibilities are."

The National Women's Hockey League has five teams in the U.S., but the top American and Canadian players are boycotting because they don't believe it is financially viable. The Professional Women's Hockey Players Association was formed last year and has held a couple showcases for players to remain in game shape. One is scheduled for Philadelphia this month and plans remain in the works for another in Arizona before the World Championships.

The players who took part in the NHL All-Star Skills event and 3-on-3 exhibition game were all members of the PWHPA. But NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman has said he isn't interested in starting a women's league while one is still operating.

"We all love this game so much to not figure it out and grind through this year to

leave this game better than we entered it," U.S. forward Kendall Coyne Schofield said. "You soak in the moments you're together because more times than not you're alone and you're passing to the boards or you're passing to a little rubber band that's passing back to you."

While a new league might be at least a couple years away, one way to increase exposure might be extending the length of the Rivalry Series. It was three games last year and five games this year. Players on both teams said they would welcome going to seven games next year.

Each of the games in this year's series were televised in the U.S. and Canada, which also helps with getting increased exposure.

"We're definitely trying to make the most of the exposure," Canada forward Blayne Turnbull said. "We only get on television three to five times a year and it is about finding more outlets. We don't get the luxury of playing in a league or getting two or three games a week."

Saturday's finale at the Honda Center drew 13,320, which is the most to view the national team in the U.S. It surpassed the previous mark of 10,158 for a 2002 game against Canada in Detroit.

Molly Schaus — a former U.S. goaltender and two-time Olympian — was the driving force behind ticket sales and getting the game in Southern California.

Coyne Schofield said that the crowd and game, won by the U.S. 4-3 in overtime, was a harbinger of future games on a bigger stage.

"Tonight the Ducks set the tone and proved to the rest of the NHL clubs that you can host a women's hockey game in your building and sell it," she said. "Molly proved to a lot of people that didn't believe this building could hold 13,000 for women's hockey." □

Unique Illinois privacy law leads to \$550M Facebook deal

By KATHLEEN FOODY

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Adam Pezen, Carlo Licata and Nimesh Patel are among millions of people who have been tagged in Facebook photos at some point in the past decade, sometimes at the suggestion of an automated tagging feature powered by facial recognition technology.

It was their Illinois addresses, though, that put the trio's names atop a lawsuit that Facebook recently agreed to settle for \$550 million, which could lead to payouts of a couple hundred dollars to several million Illinois users of the social networking site.

The lawsuit — one of more than 400 filed against tech companies big and small in the past five years, by one law firm's count — alleges that Facebook broke Illinois' strict biometric privacy law that allows people to sue companies that fail to get consent before harvesting consumers' data, including through facial and fingerprint scanning. Privacy advocates hail the law as the nation's strongest form of protection in the commercial use of such data, and it has survived ongoing efforts by the tech industry and other businesses to weaken it. Attorneys who focus on privacy law predict that the Facebook settlement — if approved by a federal judge — will trigger a new round of lawsuits and make the targets of existing ones more likely to settle. Illinois' legal landscape also could shape debates over privacy protection in other states and in Congress, particularly about whether individuals should have the right to sue over violations. "We're going to see a lot of constituents saying, 'Why not me?'" said Jay Edelson, a Chicago attorney whose firm first sued Facebook for allegedly breaking Illinois' law. "This settlement, it's going to really make the point that having laws on the books is the difference between people getting to go to court and getting real relief, and otherwise just getting trampled by

these tech companies."

Although the buying and selling of consumer data

Edelson's firm and others that focus on class-action suits were first, accusing

gative reports by The New York Times and BuzzFeed. Although there are Illinois

than line the pockets of class action attorneys," Diers said in a statement.

Facing Illinois' law, some companies opt out of the state. Sony, for instance, refuses to sell its "aibo" robot dog to Illinois residents and says the device's ability to behave differently toward individual people depends on facial recognition technology.

Backers of the law argue that it's not difficult to comply — simply tell consumers you plan to use biometric data and get their consent. State Rep. Ann Williams, a Chicago Democrat, said the ability to sue is critical for consumers facing global companies that make billions of dollars per year.

"If the penalty's only a fine, that's the cost of doing business for them," Williams said. "A settlement like (the Facebook case), we're talking about real money that will go to consumers."

Attorneys who defend smaller companies, though, argue that the law should be narrowed to permit the use of fingerprint scanners to track employees' hours. "Small and medium-size businesses really do not have the resources to defend these cases or pay some big settlement," said Mary Smigielski, a partner at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith and a co-leader of the firm's group focused on Illinois' biometric law.

The Facebook case wound through courtrooms in Illinois and California for nearly five years before last month's announcement of a settlement, days after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear arguments. Edelson said he hopes that the \$550 million deal, which lawyers on the case described as a record amount for a privacy claim, will put pressure on attorneys to refuse credit monitoring or negligible cash payouts that are more typical in agreements to resolve data privacy suits. People eligible for the settlement will be contacted directly and don't need to take any action until then, attorneys on the case said. □



In this May 4, 2016, file photo, Illinois Rep. Ann Williams, D-Chicago, speaks to reporters at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, Ill. Adam Pezen, Carlo Licata and Nimesh Patel are among the billions of Facebook users who use the site to keep up with friends.

Associated Press

has become a multi-billion-dollar industry, Illinois' law — the Biometric Information Privacy Act — predates even Facebook's iconic "like" feature and was a reaction to a single company's flop.

Pay By Touch, a startup that teamed with grocery stores to offer fingerprint-based payments, had gone bankrupt and was expected to auction off its assets, including its database of users' information. Worried about where that user data would wind up, Illinois lawmakers quickly passed a law in 2008 requiring companies to get consent before collecting biometric information and to create a policy specifying how that information will be retained and when it will be destroyed.

It also gave Illinois residents the right to sue for \$1,000 over negligent violations and \$5,000 for intentional violations.

For years, "literally nothing happened," said John Fitzgerald, a Chicago attorney and author of a book on the law that is due out this year. He couldn't find any record of a case filed before 2015.

Facebook of failing to meet Illinois' standard in multiple lawsuits filed in 2015. The three Illinois men fronting the class-action suit against Facebook said they were never told that the site's photo tagging system used facial recognition technology to analyze photos then create and store "face templates."

A federal judge later grouped the cases together as a class-action on behalf of Illinois Facebook users who were among the stored face templates as of June 7, 2011.

Facebook only changed the technology last year. The tag suggestion tool was replaced a broader facial recognition setting, which is turned off by default.

The Illinois law is the basis for two recent suits filed against Clearview AI, a facial recognition company that harvests images by scraping social media sites and other places and then sells access to its database to law enforcement agencies.

Facebook, Twitter, Venmo and YouTube have all demanded that Clearview stop harvesting their users' images following investi-

gations against other major tech companies, including Google, Snapchat and Shutterfly, the vast majority of the cases are filed on behalf of employees who were directed to use fingerprint scanning systems to track their work hours and who accuse employers or the systems' creators of failing to get their prior consent.

Illinois is one of three states that have laws governing the use of biometric data. But the other two, Texas and Washington, don't permit individual lawsuits, instead delegating enforcement to their attorneys general. The state's Chamber of Commerce and tech industry groups have backed amendments to gut Illinois' allowance of individual lawsuits or exempt time-keeping systems.

Illinois' law puts "litigation over innovation," said Tyler Diers, the Illinois and Midwest executive director of the industry group TechNet, whose members include Apple, Facebook and Google.

"This case exemplifies why consumer privacy law should empower state regulators to enforce rather

Administration ends antitrust probe of 4 automakers, California

By MARCY GORDON and
MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has ended its antitrust probe into a deal between California and four of the world's biggest automakers, after failing to find that the companies' conduct violated the law.

The Justice Department's investigation, which started last fall, had aimed to determine whether antitrust laws were violated by Ford, Honda, Volkswagen and BMW in reaching the July deal with California.

Under the deal, the automakers planned to comply with pollution and related mileage requirements established by California that are tougher than the federal standards sought by President Donald Trump.

The Justice Department didn't find conduct violating the law and has closed the investigation, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Friday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly.

In September, the administration revoked California's authority to set auto mileage standards, asserting that only the federal government has the power to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and fuel economy.

Top California officials and environmental groups took legal action to stop the roll-



In this Jan. 5, 2016, file photo, traffic crosses the Golden Gate Bridge in the rain in this view from Sausalito, Calif.

Associated Press

back.

Democrats accused the administration of using antitrust powers to target political opponents with the investigation.

A top Justice Department official defended the probe before Congress and denied any political motivation or influence from the White House.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, said Friday that the Justice Department's "trumped-up charges were always a sham — a blatant attempt by the Trump administration to prevent more automakers from joining California and agreeing to stronger emissions standards."

Newsom called the closing of the probe "a big loss for

Economic impact of virus widens as Ericsson exits trade show

By The Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — More than a month after the outbreak of China's deadly virus, the economic damage is being felt by more businesses and is threatening the outlook for the global economy.

In a report Friday, the Federal Reserve warned that the virus represents an international risk.

"The recent emergence of the coronavirus," the Fed said in a semi-annual report on monetary

policy, "could lead to disruptions in China that spill over to the rest of the global economy."

Economists note that the longer the outbreak and the lockdown of Wuhan and other Chinese cities last, the worse the damage will likely be for a global economy that depends on supply chains that link China with trading partners around the world. The viral outbreak has thrown the travel industry into chaos, threat-

ening billions in losses and keeping millions of would-be travelers at home. The Trump administration acknowledged Friday that the virus may delay some of the purchases of U.S. goods China is supposed to make under an interim trade deal with the United States. But Larry Kudlow, President Donald Trump's top economic adviser, said that President Xi Jinping had assured Trump that China would meet the purchase target.

About a dozen states and the District of Columbia also follow California's fuel economy standards. The deal struck by the state and the automakers bypassed the administration's plan to freeze emissions and fuel economy standards adopted under President Obama at 2021 levels.

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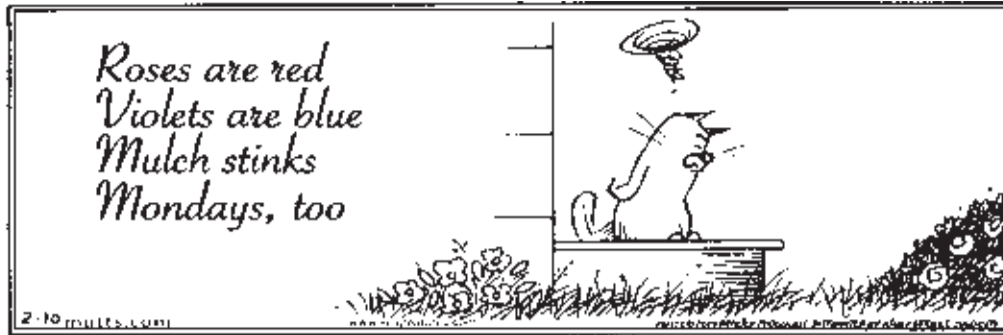
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Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		1	6	4		7	9	
6			8			4		
7	4				5			3
		6		5			2	7
9				3				1
8	5			1		9		
4			3				5	6
		5			1			9
	3	9		6	7	2		

Difficulty Level ★

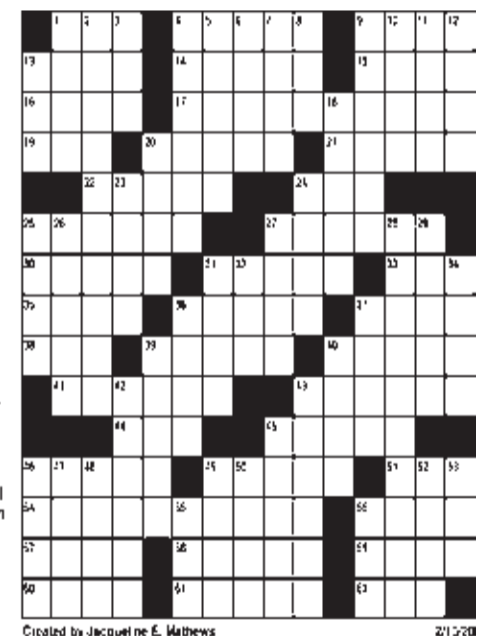
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

6	5	4	7	9	1	2	8	3
2	9	7	4	3	8	5	1	6
1	3	8	6	5	2	9	4	7
5	4	1	9	2	7	3	6	8
7	2	6	8	4	3	1	9	5
3	8	9	5	1	6	7	2	4
4	7	2	1	8	5	6	3	9
8	1	5	3	6	9	4	7	2
9	6	3	2	7	4	8	5	1

- ACROSS**
- Yuslang or Imca
 - at show
 - for pench
 - agree
 - Baseoa's Ruti
 - Bert's buddy
 - Boast
 - As strong as
 - Dwand ng
 - Diamond or garnet
 - Outer garments
 - Third-largest U.K. city
 - Furious
 - Quayle or Rather
 - Wolf or St. Bernard
 - Kip pattern
 - Vocally to make hi
 - Provide with fresh weapons
 - Vol'nist's rod
 - Curved bones
 - Ladd or Sawyer
 - Carry
 - Reply to a texter's curt
 - headache
 - reason to take
 - Sudat'd
 - Reocated
 - Vase aught
 - 43 rug
 - Passing dre
 - Pu sare
 - Me Back to Old Virginny
 - Number of sons for Trump
 - Grand Copy
 - Horseback rider
 - Chas from the look
 - Transports something heavy
 - Small weight
 - Ra bows
 - cut at attack
 - verba y
 - Trivia
 - insignificant
 - UK's predecessor

- DOWN**
- Wa king sick
 - Porole
 - Harrison or Heed
 - Pul to sleep before surgery
 - Thin pancake
 - more; again
 - Christmas bees often
 - Charge
 - Part of AWO
 - Cheese with a white coating
 - Come to shore
 - Custard ingredients
 - Work at the grocery store
 - Warning device
 - Isn't able to
 - Tears
 - I you'll words of a challenge
 - Rob Reiner's dad
 - Foregr: farewell
 - Surbathes
 - Not at a deceitful
 - Musica symbol's
 - Me on she!
 - Thirsty
 - Frenchman's need
 - Varries
 - Passed away
 - Barcelona cu
 - Murders
 - Barn mama
 - Anew
 - 2021-09 J.S. vice president
 - Stretch of land
 - Jarard's room
 - Co or similar to turquoise
 - Carpets
 - Words of agreement
 - He plu' due
 - Snoezing
 - Curvy letter
 - Spring toy
 - Erl



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

2/1/2020

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

ROBE	IN THE	DROP
EXES	NOWAY	ROPE
MENS	STALEMATES	
INE	TUES	AGENT
FAILS	ADD	
FLAUNT	BRANCH	
LUCKY	REAMS	HOW
OCTS	SIGNS	LAVA
PRO	PANGS	QAREO
FERRING	PUDDLE	
AND	LA SSO	
ABODE	SALT	NBA
REDISTRICT	ANOO	
CADS	OUTER	BAND
HUSH	WEEDY	CYDS

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- 34 Varries
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- 43 2021-09 J.S. vice president
- 45 Stretch of land
- 46 Jarard's room
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2 BR Ocean Side \$ 18 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K
3 BR Ocean View \$26 K

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1 BR WK 8
Building 6 on the 4th floor
27 weeks remain \$15 K
1 BR WK 11
building 7 on the 3rd floor
33 weeks remain \$15 K

Aruba Divi Phoenix
1 BR Week # 8/9
Penthouse 14th floor
with 32/22 weeks remain
\$20 K both weeks

Divi Village \$ 7 K
1 BR WK # 14
ground floor building C
16 weeks remain

Renaissance Suites
1 BR WK # 9 \$ 9 K
4th floor harbor view
Divi Village
2 BR Wk 13 \$13K
3 rd floor building
27 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf
1 BR Wk 6 \$8K Birdie 1
19 weeks remain
Studio wk 7/8
Birdie 5 \$7,5 K each
27/29 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf
1 BR WK 8/9
Eagle 9 \$9,5K each
with 27/19 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf
1 BR WK #11
Birdie 3 \$9 K
26 weeks remain
1 BR wk 12/13
ground Floor
With 33/34 weeks remain
Birdie 10 \$9,5 K each

Divi Village
Studio wk 6 \$ 7,5 K
Building F
21 weeks remain
2 sd Floor 18 weeks remain

Dutch Village
1 BR WK 7/8 \$9 K each
15 weeks remain each
2 BR WK 7 \$18 K
25 weeks remain

Dutch Village
1 BR WK 9
16 weeks remain
1 BR WK 8 \$8 K
12 weeks remain
1 BR WK 7/8 \$7 K
12/24 weeks remain

Eagle Resorts
1 BR WK 5,6,7,8
Ground Floor \$6,5 K each
1 BR wk 7/8/9 \$6,5 K each
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"Where it begins": Young hungry locusts bulk up in Somalia

By JOSPHAT KASIRE
and BEN CURTIS

Associated Press

GAROWE, Somalia (AP)

— At a glance, the desert locusts in this arid patch of northern Somalia look less ominous than the billion-member swarms infesting East Africa in the worst outbreak some places have seen in 70 years.

But their time will come.

Small and wingless, the hopping young locusts are the next wave in the outbreak that threatens more than 10 million people across the region with a severe hunger crisis.

And they are growing up in one of the most inaccessible places on the planet. Large parts of Somalia south of this semi-autonomous Puntland region are under threat, or held by, the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group. That makes it difficult or impossible to conduct the aerial spraying of the locusts that experts say is the only effective control.

Somalia has declared the outbreak a national emergency. Across the region, it has the potential "to be the most devastating plague of locusts in any of our living memories if we don't reduce the problem faster than we're doing at the moment," U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said.

As an armed Somali policeman stood by, experts on Thursday walked across the dry land crawling with the young locusts and explained the threat to come if the world doesn't act right now.

"The world needs to know this is where it all begins," said Alberto Trillo Barca, a spokesman for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. "In the next



In this photo taken Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, a young desert locust that has not yet grown wings is stuck in a spider's web on a thorny bush in the desert near Garowe, in the semi-autonomous Puntland region of Somalia.

three or four weeks, these nymphs, as we call them, will develop wings."

Then they are expected to set off for neighboring Kenya and Ethiopia, where a handful of planes spraying pesticide can only do so much if such swarms keep arriving.

Climate experts have pointed to unusually heavy rains, aided by a powerful cyclone off Somalia in December, as a major factor in the outbreak. The locusts were carried in by the storm's winds from the Arabian Peninsula and parts beyond, and now they are feeding on Somalia's fresh vegetation.

With more rains expected in the region in the coming weeks, the number of locusts if unchecked could

grow by up to 500 times by June, when drier weather is expected.

But that drier weather is not necessarily the solution, said Dominique Burgeon, the FAO's emergency and resilience director.

The density of the locusts is now so high that even normal moisture can lead to another generation, he said.

"We cannot believe in Mother Nature to solve it," he explained.

Without enough spraying to stop the swarms, the already worrying outbreak could turn into a plague, "and when you have a plague, it takes years to control," he said.

Against that sweeping outlook, a few masked workers with white protective suits and pesticide containers strapped to their backs stood in the camel-crossed Somali desert, spritzing the thousands of locusts clinging to thorny bushes.

The world's changing climate brings the risk of more cyclones coming in from the warming Indian Ocean off East Africa, climate experts say. With that, the

likelihood of further locust outbreaks grows.

The "sort of new normal," Burgeon said.

And that means Kenya, Ethiopia and other East African countries that rarely see such outbreaks and found themselves largely unprepared for this one could join "frontline countries" in parts of West Africa and the Middle East, experts say. Those countries have well-trained monitoring and prevention systems in place for more frequent locust outbreaks.

The FAO has asked international donors to give \$76 million immediately to help control this outbreak. So far \$19 million is in hand, Burgeon said.

"The biggest challenge is the scale of the breeding, as you can see all around us," Barca said. These locusts, he said, will be migrating to southern Somalia and parts of Kenya and Ethiopia just as crops are germinating there.

"If at that time there are huge quantities of locusts around, it will have a devastating impact on the crops," Burgeon said.

Other East African countries including South Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti are also at risk, Burgeon said. Millions of people in some of these places are already facing hunger in the wake of civil war or more common challenges such as poverty.

Locusts began to arrive Sunday in Uganda, reaching a village near the Kenyan border, according to Martin Owor, the country's commissioner in charge of disaster preparedness.

The swarm spotted in Amudat district was "certainly big," and the prime minister was expected to lead an evening emergency meeting on Uganda's first major locust outbreak since the 1960s, Owor said.

Here in rural Somalia, where about 50% of the people depend on animals for their livelihoods, the locusts are eating the pasturage. The animals weaken, their milk decreases and small children, who depend on the milk to survive, suffer skyrocketing malnutrition, the experts said.

Those fighting the locust outbreak may try to negotiate with Somalia's extremist fighters to allow spraying in rural areas where they are active, Burgeon said. Already emergency workers are going in where they can.

In a few weeks the young locusts will shed their skin, said Keith Cressman, a senior locust forecasting officer with the FAO.

"It takes a few days to warm up their wings," he said. Some test flights follow and they're on the move.

The locusts at that stage are bright pink and in their most voracious state, like "very hungry teenagers," Cressman said. By now, many people in Kenya and Ethiopia know them well. After a month or so, the locusts will be mature adults, ready to reproduce.

Soon after copulating and laying eggs the locusts will die, "but their progeny will be hatching," Cressman said.

"And we have another generation of locusts to contend with, with about another 20-fold increase." □

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24/7

'The Farewell,' Adam Sandler triumph at Spirit Awards

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (Associated Press) —

At a Film Independent Spirit Awards that often stood in stark contrast to Sunday's Academy Awards, Lulu Wang's family drama "The Farewell" took the top prize, while Adam Sandler and the Safdie brothers' "Uncut Gems" also landed awards. The win Saturday for "The Farewell" was a surprise, but also a fitting finale to a Spirit Awards that exalted female filmmakers and put forth a far more diverse field of nominees than the film academy. Wang referenced the conversation around the dearth of female filmmaker nominated by the Academy Awards in her speech.

"You don't have to encourage women. There are lots of women making films, in film school," said Wang. "What women need is just the job. Give them the freaking job!" The Spirits, held in an ocean-side tent on the Santa Monica, California, beach the day before the Oscars, often diverges greatly in tone from the weekend's other, more formally attired award show across town. But the winners — including "Moonlight," "Spotlight"

and "Birdman" — have often lined up. Yet more so than in years, the Spirit Awards hardly overlapped with the Oscars this time around. "The Farewell" was shutout by the film academy, which instead heaped nominations on bigger-budget epics including "1917," "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" and "The Irishman." The Spirits, the premier awards ceremony for indie film, cap nominees at a budget of \$22.5 million. "The Farewell" also won best supporting performance by a female actor for Zhao Shuzhen, the grandmother ("Nai Nai") in the film. Many expected the award to go to Jennifer Lopez ("Hustlers"). Wang said Shuzhen, a Chinese actress, couldn't attend the show because of coronavirus travel restrictions. The boutique studio A24 dominated the Spirits, winning trophies for "The Farewell," "Uncut Gems" and "The Lighthouse." "Uncut Gems" led all films with three awards, including best performance by a male actor for Sandler, best director for Josh and Ben Safdie, and best editing. Sandler, who received a standing ovation, compared his Oscar "snub" to losing best looking in high school. But he did win

best personality, an honor he compared to his Spirit Award. "As I look around this room, I realize the Independent Film Spirit Awards are the Best Personality Awards," Sandler joked. Referring to the Oscar nominees he said, "Their handsome good looks will fade in time, while our independent personalities will shine on forever."

Only one Oscar favorite among the actors was also competing at the Spirits: Renee Zellweger. She won for her performance in the Judy Garland drama "Judy." "Cheers to you from the beach, Ms. Garland," Zellweger said.

And just one movie up for best picture on Sunday was nominated for the Spirit Awards' top prize: Noah Baumbach's "Marriage Story." It won for Baumbach's screenplay and was awarded the Spirits' ensemble award, dubbed the Robert Altman Award. Baumbach thanked "Parasite" director Bong Joon Ho — the category's expected co-winner on Sunday — for not being nominated for best screenplay. (Though a favorite for top awards on Sunday, "Parasite" won a single award at the Spirits, for best international film.) In his second speech of



From left, Peter Saraf, Daniele Melia, Lulu Wang, Andrew Miano, Eddie Rubin, Anita Gou pose in the press room with the award for best feature for "The Farewell" at the 35th Film Independent Spirit Awards on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, in Santa Monica, Calif.

Associated Press

the afternoon, Baumbach dismissed the idea that independent film and the Spirit Awards are "the minor leagues." "To me the movies we're celebrating here today, they are the movies," said Baumbach. "They are as major as anything." While this year's Oscars only feature one acting nominee of color, the Spirits nominees — including nominations for Alfre Woodard ("Clemency"), Octavia Spencer ("Luce"), Taylor Russell ("Waves") and Jonathan Majors ("The Last Black Man in San Francisco") — were notably more diverse. All of the nominees for best

supporting performance by a female actor were women of color.

While the Academy Awards have been criticized for again nominating an all-male field of directing nominees, Alma Har'el ("Honey Boy") and Lorene Scafaria ("Hustlers") were both among the Spirits' nominees for best director. Olivia Wilde won best first feature for her high-school comedy "Booksmart." A recently created grant for mid-career female filmmakers dubbed the Bonnie Award was also given to Kelly Reichardt ("Wendy and Lucy," "First Cow"). □

Virus blocks 3 Chinese brands from Milan Fashion Week

By COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press Fashion Writer MILAN (Associated Press) —

Italian fashion officials on Tuesday forecast a nearly 2% drop in first-half revenues due to the virus emerging from China, which also is preventing three Chinese fashion houses from traveling to Milan Fashion Week later this month.

Chinese consumers are the biggest luxury spenders in the world, including in Italy, where they represent 35% of big-ticket spenders, more than Russians, Arabs and Americans combined, according to a 2019 study by Global Blue, a tourism shopping tax refund company. Their absence during the Chinese New Year trav-

el period is being sorely felt in Milan's Montepulciano District of luxury boutiques, where 48 brands have created capsule collections dedicated to the Year of the Rat in anticipation of the usual influx of Chinese tourists.

A drop in big-spending Chinese tourists along with the negative impact on luxury sales in China, where Italian brands have a strong retail presence, are expected to decrease first-half revenues in the Italian luxury industry by 1.8%. That will in turn put a drag on projections of 3% revenue growth in 2020 over the 90 billion euros (\$99 billion) posted last year, according to Italian National Fashion Chamber president Carlo Capasa.



Dummies are displayed in a fashion shop at the Montenapoleone shopping district, in Milan, Italy, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020.

Associated Press

"Everyone hoped that we would grow this year, but instead we have this terrible setback," Capasa said Tuesday. "We hope that they find a solution and there is a relaunch." Also due to the corona-

virus, the Chinese fashion houses Angela Chen, Ricostru and Hui had to cancel their runway turns during Milan Fashion Week, which runs from Feb. 18-24, while an estimated 1,000 Chinese journalists, buyers and

other fashion industry insiders also will be absent.

The fashion chamber will express its solidarity with it partners in China with a digital event, showcasing eight Chinese designers over video with runway shows, backstage peeks and interviews. The initiative, titled "China, we are with you," will open with a runway show of a Chinese designer whose production is mostly in Europe and the United States, so is unaffected by the virus, Capasa said. The identity of the fashion house was being kept secret.

"We want to confront this emergency with a positive message, trying to keep ties very open with our Chinese partners," Capasa said. □

Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey headline arena like rock stars



Michelle Obama, left, and Oprah Winfrey speak onstage at "Oprah's 2020 Vision: Your Life in Focus" tour at the Barclays Center on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press
Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey headlined Brooklyn's Barclays Center like an A-list duo Saturday, getting a rock-star like applause from a feverish audience of fans on a stage typically reserved for pop, rap and basketball stars.

It was the fifth tour stop of "Oprah's 2020 Vision: Your Life in Focus," Winfrey's full-day wellness event with WW (Weight Watchers Reimagined) that had the New York venue usually holding concerts at night buzzing with bright-eyed attendees lined up as early as 8 a.m.

It marked Obama's return to Barclays just 14 months after appearing at the arena for her own sold-out tour to promote "Becoming," which has sold more than 11.5 million units worldwide and won a Grammy Award last month.

"Does this feel like déjà vu for you?" Winfrey asked. "Because you were here wearing those bad, Balenciaga gold boots!" "Barack is like, 'Where are those boots?'" Obama said. "I was like, 'They're put away, honey. Just settle down.'"

The former U.S. president was one of the main topics discussed during the wide-ranging, hourlong conversation which, at times, had the former first lady coming off like a comedian headlining a sold-out show.

"All of the people in this room paid money to come out, to give up a Saturday...." Winfrey said before Obama chimed in with: "And as I said — ain't nobody twerking onstage."

The audience erupted in laughter.

Obama cracked more jokes when she told Winfrey that she and her husband were now empty nesters since their 18-year-old daughter, Sasha, began college last fall (Malia, 21, is a junior).

"We tried to hold it together, to get (Sasha) in the car so she wouldn't start crying, and then me and Barack,

we bawled like little babies. Barack gets that ugly, loud cry," Obama said, imitating his cry and earning laughs from the crowd.

"He did that at Malia's graduation," she added. "We're sitting there, and he had his glasses on and speeches are happening and we're all chatting, and we hear," she said, imitating his cry again while laughing herself.

"And I'm looking at him like, 'Are you OK?'" she recalled. "He's going to kill me." When Winfrey asked if the energy in their home was different now that the kids are gone, Obama exclaimed: "It is so good, y'all." "OK, you guys, get out of the gutter!" Obama added.

"Parenting takes up a lot of emotional space. And my husband was busy being president," she said as the audience cheered loudly. "Don't we wish. Don't we wish," Winfrey said.

"Just vote y'all, that's all I'm saying," Obama continued. "Just vote." The conversation turned slightly political, again, when Winfrey asked Obama what the next chapter of her life would entail.

"President," some audience members yelled. Others screamed, "White House!" Obama, 56, said she didn't want to get political during the chat but that she wants to spend her career empowering young people, calling them the "next generation of leaders."

"To help them understand a broader sense of values that they can operate within because I do think that we are short on that right now, that are leaders are not paving a good path for what we want our kids to be," she said. "I'm sorry to say that. I don't want to make this political in any way."

She also opened up about her marriage, saying that going to therapy taught her that she is responsible for her own happiness.

"I didn't marry Barack for him to make me happy," she said.

"We're coming back to the

point where we see each other again because some of the hardest times in our lives we just escaped it, we survived it," she added. "And we went through a tough time. We did some hard things together and now we're out on the other end and I can look at him and I still recognize my husband. He's still the man that I fell in love with."

This year the couple is celebrating 28 years of marriage.

Winfrey's event featured the mogul discussing her own wellness journey, a dance exercise from choreographer Julianne Hough, a pre-show dance party and a performance from Grammy-winning gospel singer and WW Ambassador Tamela Mann. Celebrity guests in the crowd included Lupita Nyong'o, Niecy Nash, Hoda Kotb, Nate Berkus, Merle Dandridge and Winfrey's BFF Gayle King, who faced backlash this week for asking WNBA star Lisa Leslie about a sexual assault charge against the late Kobe Bryant.

Winfrey, who said in an interview Friday that King is facing death threats, sort of referenced the drama when she told the audience Saturday, "I had no peace this week."

But Winfrey put the main focus on Obama and encouraged the audience to make 2020 their year of transformation and triumph.

When the topic turned to health and Winfrey asked Obama what she appreciates about her body, she said: "It's mine. All mine. It's a healthy body that works every day and I try not to judge it."

"As a child growing up with a father with a disability who could not walk; my father would have given anything to have any one of my legs, for me to judge that and not to just embrace it and be happy that I am alive, moving, able to move, I have to tell myself: 'Appreciate what God gave you and take care of that, and be balanced about it,'" she added. □

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SAT	2:00 3:30 4:30 6:00 7:00 8:30 11:00
SUN	2:00 3:30 4:30 6:00 7:00 8:30
VIP	MON-THU 5:05 7:30
FRI	5:05 7:30 10:00
SAT	2:40 5:05 7:30 10:00
SUN	2:40 5:05 7:30
PBP	MON-THU 5:45 8:10
FRI	5:45 8:10 10:35
SAT	12:55 3:20 5:45 8:10 10:35
SUN	12:55 3:20 5:45 8:10
PBP	MON-FRI 4:35 7:00 9:25
SAT-SUN	2:10 4:35 7:00 9:25

SOPHIA LILLIS | ALICE KRIGE

Gretel & Hansel

PH	MON-THU 6:30 8:40
FRI	6:30 8:40 10:50
SAT	2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40 10:50
SUN	2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40
PBP	MON-THU 5:25 7:30 9:35
FRI	5:25 7:30 9:35 11:40
SAT	1:15 3:20 5:25 7:30 9:35 11:40
SUN	1:15 3:20 5:25 7:30 9:35

WILL SMITH | MARTIN LAWRENCE

BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 7:40 8:35
FRI	7:40 8:35 10:20
SAT	2:10 4:55 7:40 8:35 10:20
SUN	2:10 4:55 7:40 8:35
PBP	MON-THU 5:10 7:30
FRI	5:10 7:30 10:00
SAT	2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
SUN	2:50 5:10 7:30
PBP	MON-FRI 4:00 6:40 9:20
SAT-SUN	1:20 4:00 6:40 9:20

ROBERT DOWNEY JR. | ANTONIO BANDERAS

DOLITTLE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-FRI 6:15
SAT-SUN	3:55 6:15
PBP	MON-THU 4:20 6:40 9:00
FRI	4:20 6:40 9:00 11:20
SAT	2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00 11:20
SUN	2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

MACKENZIE DAVIS | FINN WOLFHARD

THE TURNING

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PH	MON-THU 6:15 8:30
FRI	6:15 8:30 10:15
SAT	1:50 4:00 6:15 8:30 10:15
SUN	1:50 4:00 6:15 8:30

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PH	MON-THU 3:50 6:30 9:10
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Robert Conrad, star of "The Wild, Wild West," dies at 84

LOS ANGELES (Associated Press) — Robert Conrad, the rugged, contentious actor who starred in the hugely popular 1960s television series "Hawaiian Eye" and "The Wild, Wild West," died Saturday. He was 84. The actor died of heart failure in Malibu, California, family spokesperson Jeff Ballard said. A small private service is planned for March 1, which would have been his 85th birthday. "He lived a wonderfully long life and while the family is saddened by his passing, he will live forever in their hearts," Ballard said. With his good looks and strong physique, Conrad was a rising young actor when he was chosen for the lead in "Hawaiian Eye." He became an overnight star after the show debuted in 1959. Conrad played Tom Lopa-

ka, a daring private investigator whose partner was Tracy Steele, played by Anthony Eisley. They operated out of a fancy office overlooking the pool at a popular Waikiki hotel. The two private eyes alternated on simple investigations with help from the island's colorful characters, including a singer named Cricket Blake (Connie Stevens) and a ukulele-strumming taxi driver named Kazuo (Poncie Ponce). After five seasons with the show, Conrad went on to embrace the television craze of the time, period Westerns, but with a decidedly different twist. In "The Wild, Wild West," which debuted in 1965, he was James T. West, a James Bond-like agent who used innovative tactics and futuristic gadgets (futuristic for the 1800s anyway) to battle bizarre villains. He was ably assisted by Ross Martin's Artemus Gordon, a master of disguise. The show aired until 1970. The series "Baa Baa Black

Sheep" followed in 1976 and was roughly based on an autobiography by Marine Corps ace and Medal of Honor recipient Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, who wrote of the raucous fliers he commanded during World War II. Conrad played Pappy Boyington, so nicknamed because he often rescued his pilots from severe punishment. Bringing his customary intensity to the role, he even learned to fly. The CBS series was enjoyed by male viewers but not so much by women and it was dropped after its first season. It was revived in December 1977 as "Black Sheep Squadron," after the network's new shows failed to find audiences. It continued on for another season. Conrad, meanwhile, interspersed his long, successful TV career with numerous roles in films. After a couple of small parts, his



In this June 13, 2013, file photo, actor Robert Conrad poses for photographers during the closing ceremony of the 2013 Monte Carlo Television Festival, in Monaco.

Associated Press TV fame elevated him to stardom, starting in 1966 with "Young Dillinger," in which he played Pretty Boy Floyd. Other films included "Murph the Surf," "The Bandits" (which he also directed), "The Lady in Red" (this time as John Dillinger) and

"Wrong Is Right." At the same time, he found plenty of time for arguments. Throughout Hollywood, Conrad had a reputation as a tough customer and was sued more than a half-dozen times as a result of fist fights. Playing himself in a 1999 episode of the TV series "Just Shoot Me," he lampooned his threatening, tough-guy persona. He was also featured in 1970s commercials for Eveready Batteries, with a battery on his shoulder, a menacing stare and a popular catchphrase, "I dare you to knock this off." "I'm only about 5-feet-8 and only weigh 165 pounds as of this morning, so I'm not the world's meanest guy," he told an interviewer in 2008. "If you treat me nicely, I'll treat you nicer," he added. "If you're rude to me, put your headgear on. Here it comes." □

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